Alabama

Killings - 1932

Negro Held In Selma Slaying

Abduction 11-23-32

SELMA, ALA., Nov. 22.—Several hours after J. S. McCain, 55, was murdered at his filling station three miles from here on the Range Line Highway, city and county officers tonight arrested Johnnie Jones, negro, and charged him with murder.

At 7:20 p.m. the police department was notified over the telephone by a woman that she had found McCain behind a counter of his store with his head partly crushed and his throat cut.

Chief of Police Stanfill and Sheriff Tucker, with several other officers, went to the scene with bloodhounds. McCain was found behind the counter, his head fractured by the blow of a hammer. The hammer was found on the floor a few feet away. McCain's throat was cut, as described by the woman, who was believed to be a customer who had gone to the store to make a purchase.

Jones, who was arrested when found near the store, denied any knowledge of the slaying.

McCain, whose home was about a mile from the scene of the killing, was believed to have been alone when attacked. While robbery was tentatively accepted by officers as the motive of the crime, several other theories were advanced, pending further investigation.

Peterson's Appeal Fills 200 Typewritten Pages

Abduction

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 22.—(AP)—Two hundred typewritten pages were included in a bill of exceptions filed today by attorneys for Willie Peterson preparatory to a hearing before the Supreme Court next week on the negro's appeal from his conviction of the slaying of a Birmingham society girl.

11-23-32

Peterson was convicted last January and sentenced to death after Miss Nell Williams identified him as the highwayman who killed her sister, Augusta, and Miss Jennie Wood and wounded her.

The girls were slain on Shades Mountain, five miles from the city, Aug. 4 1931.

PETERSON APPEAL CONTINUED TO APRIL, 1933

Decatur

12-10-32

Birmingham Ala.

Montgomery, Ala.—With both the State and defense counsel agreeing, the Willie Peterson case, scheduled for Supreme Court hearing here last week, was postponed until April, 1933.

The continuance was granted in view of the fact that the bill of exceptions in the case, which contained testimony at Peterson's trial had not been completed.

Selma Negro Confesses Ax Slaying Of Merchant

Abduction 12-20-32

Brought To Kilby Prison After Admitting Killing Storekeeper

SELMA, ALA., Dec. 5—Following a confession tonight that he had slain J. S. McCain at the latter's store on the Range Line Highway on Nov. 22, Bennie Foster, negro, was given a quick hearing before Recorder Heflin Berry, bound over to the Grand Jury on a charge of first degree murder and removed to Kilby Prison at Montgomery for safekeeping.

Police Chief Stanfill, who took the negro to Kilby, said he had obtained a full confession with details of the manner in which the murder was committed. According to Foster's story, he went to McCain's store and asked for some groceries that he saw on a shelf. When McCain turned to get them, Foster asserted he plunged a knife into the former's neck, afterwards cutting his throat and striking him over the head with a claw-hammer. Robbery was given as the motive.

McCain was found lying on the floor some time later when a woman customer entered his store. An alarm was given at once and several persons arrested for questioning, but Foster was not apprehended until Saturday night, after he had struck Julian Welch over the head with an ax at a filling station on Seventh Avenue, where Welch worked.

After the attack on Welch, the negro, shot in the arm by the filling station owner, fled to a local hospital, where he was arrested by City officers and members of the Sheriff's department. He denied having made the attack, saying he had accidentally shot himself. Welch, however, as soon as he had received treatment for his head wound, identified Foster as his assailant.

Chief Stanfill, due to similarity in the manner of attack in both cases, questioned Foster about the McCain crime. The negro maintained his plea of innocence steadfastly until tonight.

Foster was also charged with assault to murder in the Welch case.

Death Estimates Vary As Alabama Deputies Battle Armed Negro Communists

Abduction 12-20-32

Montgomery, Ala.

Blacks Flee To Woods After Ambushing, Wounding Four Officers, Reviving Share Croppers' Union Trouble Of Last Year; One Dead Is Identified; 300 White Men In Posses Hunting For Fugitives

With between 250 and 300 armed white men patrolling the Liberty Hill section of Tallapoosa County, near Tallassee, where deputies sheriff and a group of alleged negro Communists clashed yesterday afternoon, casualties reported up to a late hour last night stood at four deputies wounded, two seriously, and a negro death list variously listed from one upward. Feeling was running high in the locality, it was said..

Leads Negro Roundup

SHERIFF J. KYLE YOUNG, hero of a battle with negroes about a year ago in the Camp Hill uprising, who refused to give any information to newspapers last night, declaring "We ain't through doing what we're doing yet," after four of his deputies had been wounded while attempting to serve an attachment on some stock owned by a negro. In the melee two or three negroes were reported killed. Asked what he was doing Sheriff Young said he "wasn't giving out no information." Sheriff Young was wounded in the Camp Hill battle.

John McMullen is the negro definitely listed as dead. Another group, Judson Simpson, listed last night as dead was reported early this morning to have disappeared. He was shot through the head. It was reported to police that "a white man was hiding him out somewhere." Both McMullen and Simpson were identified as leaders of the negro gathering. Bodies of two other negro men were reported seen in the swamp nearby.

The wounded deputies are G. A. Ware C. E. Elder, "Stool" Alford and J. M. Gantt. The last two named are citizens of East Tallassee, especially deputized to act in the emergency by Sheriff Kyle Young.

Deputy Ware is the most seriously hurt. He was shot through the shoulder with a charge of buckshot and it was feared some of the shot might have entered a lung. Deputy Gantt received a rifle ball through the calf of one leg, and another bullet lodged in his cheek just under an eye. Both he and Ware are under treatment at a Tallassee hospital.

Deputy Elder was peppered about the head and face by buckshot, and Alford suffered minor gunshot injuries.

Total Dead Unknown

That the number of dead is uncertain and probably will not be known until some time today, was indicated in a report Col. Moon stated he received last night from a Montgomery deputy sheriff with whom he talked over the telephone a report to the effect that there were "four or five dead negroes laying about in the field," and that he didn't know how many more were in the woods.

Following the attack on the four deputies, a call for aid was sent out by Sheriff Young, and sheriffs and deputies from neighboring counties immediately responded, including Sheriff Sam Stearns, of Montgomery, and Sheriff Hasty Golden, of Elmore County.

Three negroes were definitely reported wounded last night. The negro Jemes was said to have been severely wounded, but had not been located last night. Another, Ned Cobb, 46, who lived six miles northwest of Notasulga, was said by Sheriff Riley to have been shot in the hip and taken to Tuskegee Institute Hospital.

Dr. Eugene E. Dibble, member of the staff at Tuskegee Institute Hospital, said last night Cobb had been received there and treated for a minor gunshot wound in the back and had been released after his wound was dressed. The Sheriff's office was notified, Dr. Dibble said.

Wounded Negro Missing

Sheriff Riley said the hospital authorities notified him that Cobb had been brought there by two negroes and that he had been searching for Cobb but was unable to find the wounded negro.

Meanwhile, only four negroes were known to have been arrested. One of these, Andrew Cobb, the son of Sheriff Golden said he arrested Andrew Cobb at his home near where the trouble occurred. He said he also took into custody two negro boys "the Greathouse boys" near Liberty Hill, but later released them as they proved by some white folk that they weren't in the mob. Sheriff Golden said he did not find any communistic literature in Cobb's home.

The other three negroes are in the Macon County Jail at Tuskegee. They are, Charlie Moss, Emmett Wood and Robert Warren, all of the Liberty Hill community.

Robert Warren, according to Sheriff Riley, has not been connected with the uprising but is being held for possession of a still which officers found while searching his barn.

Moss Nabbed At Home

Charlie Moss was arrested at his home about two miles from the scene of the shooting and is held on a charge of assault to murder, Sheriff Riley said. The Sheriff said Moss admitted being in the neighborhood but denied he knew anything about a meeting at the Jemes

Death Estimates Vary As Alabama Deputies Battle Armed NegroCommunists

(Continued From Page 1)

home or that he had any part in the shooting.

Emmett Wood was arrested at his home in Macon County and near Liberty Hill upon information, Sheriff Riley said, that he had been mixed up in the shooting. Wood, he said, also denied having any part in the affair.

Sheriff Young late in the afternoon called Gov. Miller over the telephone, and reported what had occurred. Gov. Miller asked him to [illegible] cation of the trouble, at the same time stating he was dispatching Col. Bartley A. Moon, adjutant general, and Col. O W. Severance, Col. Moon's assistant, to investigate as his personal representatives, and report to him as promptly as possible.

Col. Moon Reports

Col. Moon returned and made his report to the Chief Executive at about 7 p.m. At that time, the Governor, on the basis of information received, did not feel that the situation demanded the ordering into the troubled zone of State troops. He was, however, keeping in constant touch with Tallassee, as was Col. Moon. No request for the assistance of National Guardsmen had been received up to then from Sheriff Young.

The trouble at Liberty Hill started when Deputy Sheriff Elder went to the locality yesterday morning to execute a court order for levy upon two mules that were in the custody of one of the negro residents. The negro ordered the deputy off the premises, assuming a threatening attitude, it is understood and he went back to Tallassee for reinforcements.

By the time he returned with Ware Alford and Gantt, a large crowd of negroes had assembled, it is stated, and when the officers sought to reenter the home of the custodian of the mules, the negroes opened fire, which was returned by the deputies. It was on the arrival of the wounded deputies at Tallassee that Sheriff Young's call for aid was issued.

Two Bodies Found

In all some two score officers from surrounding counties responded. It was Sheriff Golden, of Elmore, who on entering the house at Liberty Hill yesterday afternoon found the body of the negro, John McMullen. Several doors away, Judson Simpson, said to have been shot while resisting arrest, lay with a rifle bullet through his head and in a dying condition.

The entire negro population of the settlement had taken to the woods, with the exception of the dead and dying, it is stated. A search resulted in the capture and arrest of six negroes who were held by authorities for questioning, several being taken to the Elmore County Jail for that purpose by Sheriff Golden.

A white farmer, who resides some distance from the scene of the affray, and a reputed eye-witness of the clash between the four officers and the negroes is quoted as saying that a Communist meeting was scheduled for yesterday at Liberty Hill and some of those attending had already arrived when Deputy Elder reached there yesterday morning.

The meeting is said to have been in full swing when Elder and his three companions got to the place in the late afternoon, the negroes at the meeting all being armed and "looking for trouble." The alleged eye-witness said, that after the clash between the negroes and the officers, about 40 negroes emerged from the house the deputies had endeavored to enter. Several of the negroes were limping, and one or two were helped away, he said.

Stearns Reports Three

Sheriff Sam Stearns of Montgomery said on his return here last night from Tallassee that three negroes had been killed in skirmishes with officers and possemen in Tallapoosa County today and that six had been arrested.

Sheriff Stearns said the bodies of two of the negroes were found on a hillside and that of the third in a yard. He said three of the six arrested had been placed in jail at Tuskegee and that Sheriff Hasty Golden, of Wetumpka, had charge of the others.

Reached by telephone at Wetumpka, Sheriff Golden said he had brought one of the negroes there but did not know where the other two had been taken. He said they "might have been released."

Feeling Running High

Sheriff Golden said feeling was high in Tallapoosa County tonight and that at least 50 cars of armed possemen were scouring the countryside for the negroes that opened fire on the deputies. He said he had the names of the 13 negroes believed to have done the shooting. He refused to reveal their names.

"The situation is pretty raw," Sheriff Golden said, adding he would return to Tallassee in the morning to aid in rounding up the negroes. The negro he brought to Wetumpka he said was Andrew Cobb. He confirmed reports that two of the negroes killed were John McMullen and Julius Simpson but said he did not know if others were slain.

He said McMullen was killed at the farmhouse where the gun battle with the deputies took place and that Simpson was slain by a posse when he was found barricaded in a house. Jemes, he said, escaped, apparently badly wounded.

Sheriff Stearns also reported a negro child was wounded during the gun battle and that he had sent it to Notasulga for treatment.

A posse surrounded the Jemes house late yesterday but most of the negroes had fled, Sheriff Stearns said. He said "people all over the country" were looking for the negroes.

J. M. Gantt, a former sheriff of Tallapoosa County, who led possemen against negroes attending an alleged meeting of the Share Croppers Union near Camp Hill, Ala., in 1931, said the negroes opened fire as the officers attempted to enter Jemes's home.

The mob gathered at the Jemes home Gantt said, after Elder had come there yesterday morning to serve the papers for attachment of two mules.

Elder reported he was driven away by the negroes and returned to the place after coming here and having the three other officers accompany him.

The negroes started shooting without warning, Gantt said.

From his cot in the hospital, Elder related the story of the gun battle.

He said he went to the Jemes Place with two small negroes.

"Jemes came out of the house and told me the sheriff didn't have enough deputies to take those mules," Elder said. "There were 10 or 12 negroes in the house at the time, the same house where we confiscated radical literature a short while ago."

Gets Reinforcements

The deputy sheriff said he returned to town to get the other deputies and drive back to Jemes's place.

"As we arrived in front of the house two negroes came out and said they would not give up the mules," the deputy continued. "One of them turned to go back and as he reached the door they opened fire on us from inside the house. There appeared to be between 75 and 100 negroes in the house.

"We exchanged shots with them until our ammunition gave out, and just as we started to drive away, a shot broke the windshield in front of my face."

A long, red streak marked the course of the bullet as it plowed along the deputy's neck.

All four of the deputies were said to have been wounded in the first exchange of shots.

Alford hastily organized a posse and set out in pursuit of the negroes who were said to have scattered into wooded sections near the Jemes place. Cold weather and soggy ground made traveling difficult for the searchers and they returned here shortly after nightfall.

Alford said he knew the leaders of the group and said the trouble was a flare-back from the disturbance near Camp Hill in July, 1931.

Smaller Posses Busy

Even though the organized posse had called off its hunt for the negroes, the woods nearby were said to be full of small searching bands.

Sheriff Young, in a telephone conversation with Gov. Miller at Montgomery in the afternoon, described the situation as grave and requested that every precaution be taken to preserve law and order in the county.

"All of the negroes have taken to the woods and it would have been impossible to have trailed them tonight," Alford said last night. "We will go back when it gets daylight and try to arrest them."

Sheriff J. K. Young, of Tallapoosa County, was wounded and a negro, Ralph Gray, killed as county officers attempted to disperse the meeting near Camp Hill, Summer before last. The negro was said to have been acting as a sentry at the church where the meeting was in progress and was shot in resisting arrest.

County authorities reported radical literature had been circulated in the county recently and only a few days ago a negro was acquitted at Dadeville, county seat, on a charge of distributing dodgers of the Share Croppers Union.

Sheriff Young who directed a search of the Jemes home last night said he found communistic literature of the Share Croppers' Union sent from Birmingham.

Records found, the sheriff said, included a roll of members and a statement showing members of the organization paid a five-cent initiation fee and monthly dues of two cents.

Other documents were said by the sheriff to have shown the names of negroes who had contributed firearms and ammunition to the Share Croppers' Union.

Young Refuses To Talk

Sheriff Kyle Young, of Tallapoosa County, declined last night to give any information to the public through the press, declaring "we ain't through doing what we are doing yet." Asked what he was doing, the Sheriff said he "wasn't giving out no information."

"Well, Sheriff," he was asked, "do you know how many negroes are dead?"

"No," he replied.

"Do you know whether any negroes have been killed."

"No, I don't know."

He estimated that five negroes had been arrested, but said he didn't know their names.

Informed that the newspaper regretted that he had assumed an attitude of declining legitimate information to which the public was entitled and that such an attitude might reflect upon him, he replied:

"I don't care about what light it puts me in. When I get through with this I might have some information to give you, but I ain't giving out none now."

And with a curt bang of the telephone receiver he abruptly ended the conversation

2 Riot Negroes Die Of Wounds

Cliff James, Milo Bentley Succumb, One In Kilby And Other In County Jail

Clifford James and Milo Bentley, two negroes who were shot during racial disorders in Tallapoosa County last week, died here yesterday, bringing to three the number of negroes killed during the disturbance.

James died in the Montgomery County Jail, and Bentley died in the Kilby Prison Hospital a few hours after he had been removed from the Montgomery Jail where both had been brought from Tuskegee for safekeeping.

James was shot at his home during a gun battle with officers and Bentley was shot the following day when Sheriff Riley and Deputy Sheriff Rowell, of Macon County, attempted to arrest him and after he had fired on the officers.

The other negro killed is Jim McMullen, who was shot dead at the James home during the battle.

Bentley Shot Five Times

Bentley was shot five times by Deputy Sheriff Rowell after he had fired on the officer with a shotgun. The negro told a newspaperman that he was in the home of a negro named Sturdivant with Ned Cobb, who was being sought as a ringleader in the disorders, when he saw the officers coming.

Bentley said he grabbed his gun "because he was scared" and ran out the back way. Ned Cobb surrendered. Bentley said he fired at the officer as he ran "just to bluff him" and that the officer (Deputy Rowell) then shot him.

James said he was shot as he was running from his house just as the battle opened and that he did not know who shot him. He told a newspaperman that he did not fire on the officers.

Four deputies of Tallapoosa County also were injured during the battle.

About a dozen other negroes are held in Dadeville in connection with the disorders which authorities ascribed to radical activities among the negroes.

Other Telegrams Sent

Telegrams continued to flood the office of Gov. Miller yesterday protesting activities of Tallapoosa County officers against the Share Croppers Union and urging the release of negroes held in connection with the disturbances in that county last week.

The latest telegrams received here bore the signatures of the Workers Unemployed Council, Clinton, Ind.; Finnish Workers Club of Brooklyn; United Farms Protected Association, of Gilbertsville, Penn.; Engdahl Memorial Committee of Pittsburgh; Young Communist League, Hartford, Conn.; Friends of the Soviet Union, Harlem International Branch, New York; and at least six from Atlanta, two bearing the signature of the Communist Party.

Other telegrams arrived from Chicago, New Orleans, Norfolk, Va., and Cleveland.

Killings-1932

Alabama

DEATH VERDICT FOR PETERSON

Daily Worker

N.A.A.C.P. Responsible Frame-up Conviction

2-4-32

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Willie Peterson, unemployed Negro miner, has been sentenced to death on the disputed "identification" of one white witness who says he killed two white girls. But the white man, Dent Williams, who shot three bullets into Peterson's body in the Birmingham jail, will never even be brought to trial. International Labor Defense investigators here learned that some time before Peterson was convicted on the framed charge, indictment against Williams was quashed.

New York

Conviction against Peterson was brought about mainly by Roderick Beddow, Birmingham attorney for the N. A. A. C. P. At the conference between the N. A. A. C. P. and the I. L D attorneys over the Scottsboro case in Birmingham a month ago, Beddow declared openly he had been offered $10,000 to assist the state in "getting" Peterson, but had refused because he was convinced the Negro was innocent

When the second trial opened, however, Beddow appeared in court as "special prosecutor." It was this N. A. A. C. P. lawyer who made the courtroom seethe with race hatred; who introduced a "rape angle" to be sure to get his man; who charged Peterson was "faking" when he fainted after hours of gruelling cross-examination. Peterson was only recently released from the hospital where he lay at the point of death after Dent Williams had shot him down in jail. Beddow was retained to defend Williams.

The trial was fought around the "identification" of Peterson by the sister of one of the slain girls. Witnesses proving that Peterson was seen on his front porch the night of the crime, were abused and intimidated by the prosecutors. An official who testified that the description of the man given by Nell Williams at this trial failed to tally with the description she gave the night of the crime was scored for "impeaching the testimony of a white gentle-woman."

The court allowed such questions as, "Was this the hat you wore the night you shot those ladies?" to be asked by Beddow and his aids, without objection.

Birmingham newsmen have told I. L. D. representatives here that practically everybody in town is convinced Peterson is innocent. But the southern workers, a large part of them Negro, are so desperate as a result of mass starvation and misery, it is considered necessary by ruling whites to "get a nigger on general principles." Convictions such as this have only one aim, according to the I. L. D.; that is club Negroes into terrorized silence and to sow race dissension between them and equally impoverished white workers.

JURY FINDS PETERSON GUILTY---DEFENSE TO APPEAL

Reporter

DEFENDANT SHOWED NO EMOTION AS JURY REPORTED

Birmingham, Ala

Willie Peterson, charged with the murder of Miss Augusta Williams on August 4 on Leeds Highway, was found guilty Saturday evening. A hushed courtroom heard the death sentence imposed on him at a few minutes past 8 o'clock by a jury that deliberated about 30 minutes in the court of Judge H. P. Heflin.

Peterson, whose first trial for the murder of Miss Williams ended in a mistrial after the jury had deliberated 44 hours, received the verdict unmoved, showing not one sign of emotion.

1-30-32

Willie Peterson was pointed out on a much traversed street late in September by Miss Nell Williams, sister of the slain girl, as the man who had jumped on the running board of the automobile in which she, her sister, and a companion, Miss Jennie Wood, were returning from viewing the sunset on the mountain about 5 P. M. August 4, made them drive to a lonely spot where he held them at the point of his gun for nearly four hours. The capture was most unusual since officers had combed every section of the city, county and state, and had picked up suspects as far away as Chicago in an effort to find the guilty person, but to no avail. Miss Nell Williams was in company with her mother and a young man, when Peterson was stopped on the street.

After his arrest he was rushed to Kilby Prison for safekeeping. But was later brought back to Birmingham where he was shot three times by Dent Williams, brother of the slain girl, as he sat on a couch in the Jefferson County jail surrounded by members of the Walliams family, Asst. Solicitor Jas. McK. Long, Sheriff Hawkins and other officers.

Although in failing health for two years Peterson rallied from the three bullet wounds. During the first trial he had to be brought into the courtroom in a chair by two trusties, he was able to walk during the second one which ended Saturday. However, he fainted at one time, and it was thought that he would be unable to continue in the trial.

Miss Nell Williams, star witness for the State, pointed out Peterson in the court as the man who had slain her sister, fatally shot her companion, Miss Jennie Wood, and wounded her. Numerous white and colored witnesses for the defendant told the court that they had seen Peterson in and near his home about the time the tragedy was said to have occurred and that he appeared a sick man. Peterson testified in his own defense that he was home on that day.

Bitterness which almost led to a fistfight marked the arguments before the jury. The State was represented by Asst. Solicitor James McK. Long and a special prosecutor, Roderick Beddow, while Attorneys J. R. Johnson and J. T. Roach represented the defendant.

Judge H. P. Heflin stated that he would pass sentence on the defendant sometime this week.

Three motions for a mistrial were entered during the proceedings by Johnson. Two of these were based on a contention that Horace F. Dugger, a juror, had expressed an opinion prior to the trial that Peterson was guilty, that he hoped he would be on the next jury and that he would stick him if he could "as it would be just another Negro out of the way."

The third motion followed a report that Peterson had fainted in his cell just prior to court opening Friday. Peterson was brought into the courtroom in an apparent state of collapse. Dr. J. A. Collins, county physician, testified he had examined him three times, that he believed he was "faking." All three motions were overruled by the court.

Attorneys for the defendant have announced that an appeal would be taken to the Supreme Court.

Dent Williams has not yet been tried on the indictment for assault with intent to murder charge in connection with the shooting of Peterson in the County Jail early in October.

SOUTH REVERTS TO FORM

Auburn

1-30-32

Pittsburgh

Second Trial Results In Guilty Verdict—Rape Angle Enters Case and "True Story" of Nell Williams Clinches Case. Move For New Trial.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 28—(ANP)—After a relentless prosecution which lasted the better part of six days, a jury Saturday night found Willie Peterson guilty of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams and Miss Jennie Wood, white, on the night of August 4.

This marked the conclusion of the second trial of Peterson, the first having ended in a mistrial when the jury failed to agree on a verdict after deliberating for 44 hours.

Defense counsel for Peterson, J. R. Johnson and J. T. Roach, both white, signified that they would enter a motion for a new trial for Peterson.

The case was heard before Judge H. P. Heflin.

This second trial was much more bitterly contested than the first. It was marked by frequent clashes between counsel and by three motions on the part of defense counsel to have the proceedings called a mistrial. Throughout the six days of the trial, the defense lawyers ran into a concrete wall in with their various motions. Two motions for a mistrial was based on the defense knowledge that one of the jurors, Horace Dugger, had been heard to express prejudicial remarks against the defendants in the courtroom after the first trial. Judge Heflin stood in the way of cleaning up the jury by informing Roach and Johnson that the proper place to advance such an issue was in a motion for a new trial.

Roach and Johnson were also checked in their efforts to prevent the prosecution, notably Assistant Solicitor Long from expressing remarks in the presence of the jury, which were prejudicial to the interest of the defendant. Practically every motion was overruled.

Furthermore, it is significant that all efforts on the part of Peterson's attorneys to disclose his physical condition were blocked as well as their attempt to secure a delay in the trial so that the weakened defendant, shot three times by the brother of the dead girl, might recover from hours of gruelling cross-examinatiton to which he was subjected by the prosecutors. A white doctor was called in to discover how Peterson felt. The latter said he thought Peterson was putting on and that he felt well enough for the trial to proceed.

Roderick Beddow, the special prosecutor employed by the family of the dead girl and formerly retained by the N. A. A. C. P. to represent it in the Scottsboro cases, threatened at one time to override the law and throw Johnson, defense counsel out of court. Beddow did not appear in the first trial. Neither was a charge of rape against Peterson made in the first trial by Nell Williams, the survivor of the tragedy, who identified Peterson after a reward of more than $3,000 had been offered for the apprehension and conviction of the slayer.

The prosecution rested its entire case on the identification of Miss Williams.

The defense sought by establishing an alibi, by having witnesses testify to Peterson's good character, and by impeaching the testimony of Miss Williams to establish Peterson's guilt. In the second trial, as in the first, the defense disclosed discrepancies between the description of the slayer given by Miss Williams the night of the killing and the descriptions given after Peterson was accused.

The defense placed three men on the stand after Miss Williams said that she had not given a description of the assailant to them in an ambulance on the night of the crime and each man stated that she had. One of these men, a suburban police chief, was severely castigated by the prosecutors for aiding in impeaching the testimony of a white woman.

Assistant Solicitor Long, arguing before the jury, described Peterson repeatedly as a gorilla, despite the objection of defense counsel, who declared that although he was a Negro, he was a man. The court continued to insist in the face of defense objections, that these issues could be brought up later.

PETERSON SENTENCED; COUNSEL GIVES NOTICE OF APPEAL

Reporter

Brought before Judge H. P. Heflin who had set in trial the week before, Willie Peterson heard last Saturday the sentence to death by the electric chair with execution date set for Friday, March 4th, for allegedly slaying Miss Augusta Williams on Aug. 4, 1931. 2-6-32

Peterson, when asked by the judge if he had anything to say on why he should not be sentenced, replied, "I am not guilty, Judge. I don't admit the crime at all."

Birmingham

Notice of appeal was given by defense counsel J. R. Johnson and the execution of the sentence was suspended pending the appeal. Counsel for Peterson also stated they would file motion for a new trial within the period of 30 days allowed by law.

NEGRO TO HANG

TOWSON, Md., Jan. 28 (AP)—Euel Lee, Negro today was sentenced to be hanged for the murder last Oct. 11 of Green K. Davis, Worcester county farmer. Lee was convicted only for the murder of Davis for whom he was working, but was indicted also for the slaying of the farmer's wife and their two young daughters.

adjourned 1-27-32

GIRL REIDENTIFIES NEGRO AS SLAYER

Courier

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 18.—(AP)—Miss Nell Williams today repeated from the witness stand her identification of Willie Peterson as the negro who killed her sister and a companion last August 4 on a lonely Shades mountain trail. 1-19-32

Adrian Taylor, a new witness called today, testified that Miss Jennie Wood, the second girl slain, was raped before she was shot.

Trial Of Dent Williams Set In Magic City Court

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb 17—(AP)—Trial of Dent Williams, young attorney charged with assault with intent to murder Willie Peterson, negro, under sentence of death for killing Williams's sister, today was set for March 7.

Williams shot and seriously wounded Peterson in the Jefferson County Jail last October shortly after the Negro was arrested for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams.

Peterson was convicted Jan. 23 and sentenced to die. He has an appeal for a new trial before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Williams is at liberty under bond.

Congregationalist
Boston, Mass

JAN 21 1932

Upholding Law in Alabama

FROM these considerations one turns with satisfaction, and with profound commendation, to the contemplation of the action of certain Southern leaders in our own country under not dissimilar circumstances—circumstances, in fact, involving cold-blooded and atrocious murder, as well as potential assault. To us, it seems that there is nothing suggestive of a higher vision of honor, associated with a sense of public law and order, and the courage to match the vision, than the action of certain Southern leaders in Alabama under the most inflammatory conditions of fact and popular excitement.

The facts are stated by Paul Blanshard in an article under the title "They Are Not Always Lynched," in *The Nation* for January 13, and the facts that Mr. Blanshard cites are the more remarkable inasmuch as his well-known social ideals, and his attitude on the racial question, can not by any chance incline him to over-statement in his recognition of the public integrity and patient courage of officials having to do with the case under review.

The case is that of Willie Peterson, accused of being one of three Negroes involved in a blood-curdling assault upon three white girls from well-to-do families in Birmingham, Ala. In this horrible affair two girls were shot and fatally wounded, and the third, Miss Nell Williams, was shot through the arm, surviving only because she fell to the ground and feigned death. When the Negro who did the shooting had gone, Miss Williams drove her car with one arm to a near-by house and summoned help. Her sister, one of the victims, died that day, and the other victim died nine days later from a bullet-shattered spine.

The further incidents surrounded the case with a show of certainty that might have justified the most vindictive feeling. Miss Williams' description of her assailant was explicit and detailed. Her freedom from the not unnatural tendency of a victim suffering from emotional shock to make a hurried identification and accusation was evidenced in the fact that when a score of Negroes were rounded up and paraded before her, she declined to identify them. Then, seven weeks later, while driving down a Birmingham street, she saw the Negro, Willie Peterson, walking on the sidewalk, and she positively identified him as the murderer. He was arrested and safely imprisoned awaiting trial, when an element of personal vengeance, not unlike that in the Honolulu incident, entered into the case. A brother of Miss Williams smuggled a pistol into the prison and attempted to kill Peterson, shooting him through the lung.

Every circumstance seemed to doom Peterson, either as a guilty man awaiting just condemnation, or, if innocent, as a man so involved in apparent evidence of guilt that nothing could save him. As Mr. Blanshard says:

> Here was a perfect setting for swift, retributive justice. A Negro charged with a crime against Southern white women had been positively identified by one of his victims. The identification was made deliberately, long after the period of hysteria was past. The girl herself, as I heard her testify from the witness stand, appeared calm, poised, and intelligent. Her testimony stood up well under cross-examination. The alibis of Peterson were not very impressive, although he had a good reputation.

What happened when Peterson came up for trial in December, was not only amazing, but one of the most remarkable manifestations of calm and impartial judicial procedure in the annals of criminal trials anywhere. Mr. Blanshard gives great credit to the young Southern judge, J. Russell McElroy, whom he describes as scrupulously fair, and he also highly commends the Birmingham newspapers which, he says, "have studiously refrained from appeals to mob hysteria." "During the trial," Mr. Blanshard says, "no machine guns were in evidence and no uniformed officers were in court. Half the main floor of the court room was given to Negroes, and half to whites." Despite Miss Williams' positive identification of Peterson, important discrepancies in the prisoner's favor were brought out in evidence. The jury of Southern white men, with commendable integrity, and weighing the evidence with almost incredible fairness toward "a destitute Negro workingman," accused with such certainty by "a socially prominent white woman," refused to convict the prisoner but disagreed. Mr. Blanshard says that rumor places the division at seven to five, for acquittal.

It is evident that we are not here approving the jury's verdict as such. We have no firsthand knowledge of the evidence. What we are commending is the manifest purpose to do justice, and to place the action of the court on the high plane of the impartial quest of right above the influence of popular prejudice and, under the circumstances, the more probable swaying of court and jury by the honest, but possibly mistaken, evidence of a witness, who from her standing in the community and from the standpoint of sympathy with her, might have determined the verdict against the prisoner, despite discrepancies, with ninety-nine juries out of a hundred, and in ninety-nine communities out of a hundred.

Our hats are off to these Alabamans who have displayed what America needs more today than anything else—evidence of faith in the processes of established law and order, and evidence of courage and honesty in putting the machinery of the law into operation. There is no situation so bad that faith and action of this sort would not handle it far more effectually, and with far better ultimate results for the general welfare and safety of society and individuals, than it could possibly be dealt with by illegal or extra-legal action, or by the perversion and corruption of the formal and professed processes of law. Some day we shall discover that the most rigid adherence to the established usages of law and order, as these have been manifested under the highest conditions of civiliza-

tion, is the only way of making society safe for social ends and for the individuals who compose it.

Killings - 1932

Alabama

The Flare-Up Between Officers and Negro Cropper's Union In Liberty Hills Section Subsides

Macon County's Sheriff and Deputies Play Important Part in Making Arrests—Warrants Sworn Out for the Seven Men Charged With Assault to Murder—Four Deputy Sheriffs Wounded in Gun Battle Monday—News Editor Views House Where Shooting Occurred.

The News Editor, in company with a son, Earl, of West Virginia, and several other members of the editor's family, visited the scene of the battle between deputy sheriffs and members of the Cropper's Union which is composed largely o colored people, yesterday. The house and premises where the shooting occurred, were given a once over by the News editor. The only sign of a war or battle to be observed by the writer, was a splotch of blood on the floor in one room of the house. Beds and bedding in other rooms were in a topsy-turvy condition, indicative of a rough house party. There were but few signs of shots having pierced the frame walls of the house. No one was observed on the premises at the time of our inspection.

There was evidence of many automobiles having traveled the road to and from the house. In talking with officers and others it was stated that only one negro was known to be dead. Rumors have been circulated to the effect that several others had been killed, but nothing definite or authentic has been ascertained to this effect.

Four deputy sheriffs were shot at Liberty Hill Monday, in the first battle, but no deaths have been reported. Some of them were taken to the hospital in Wetumpka.

Several negroes have been reported wounded, but only one is known to be wounded seriously, except the one who has been reported dead.

Sheriff T. A. Riley and other Macon County officers arrested 12 men that are said to have been connected with the trouble in Tallapoosa County and placed in jail in Tuskegee. Eight of these prisoners were taken to Dadeville and placed in jail there yesterday by Sheriff J. Kyle Young. Four of the negroes are still in jail here.

Macon County officers attempted to arrest a negro named Milo Bentley near Chehaw. He ran from the house firing at the officers from ambush as he ran. The officers returned the fire and Bentley received four flesh wounds, not serious. He is reported to be in jail here.

Ned Cobb, another negro who was with Bentley, offered no resistance and was lodged in jail here He was wounded when arrested.

The following telegrams have been received from Dadeville and Tallassee:

DADEVILLE, Dec. 21.—Authorities announced today that two negroes sought as ringleaders in the Share Croppers union which precipitated disturbances causing the death of one negro and wounding of several officers and negroes were in custody at Tuskegee, Ala.

Deputies sheriff left today for Tuskegee to return the negroes, Ned Cobb, and Milo (Boss) Bentley, the latter wounded, to the Tallapoosa jail where four others, including Judson Simpson, once reported killed, are held.

Negro Gives Fight

Cobb and Bentley were arrested near Chehaw by Sheriff T. A. Riley and deputies of Macon County Sheriff Riley said Cobb surrendered quietly, but that Bentley made a break from the house where he was located, firing as he fled.

The officers returned the fire and Bentley fell, wounded four times in the arms and once in the chest.

In addition to Judson Simpson Walter Pogue, Alford White and Lloyd Simpson are held in the Tallapoosa county jail here, but charges booked against them have not been made public.

Dr. C. C. Farguson, county health officer, who treated Simpson this morning, said his condition was dangerous, as he had been severely wounded.

Latest Telegram From Dadeville

DADEVILLE, Ala., Dec. 21.—Seven negroes charged with assault with intent to murder four deputies sheriff, were held in jail here tonight, as authorities sought to bring to a central location all suspects held in connection with the outbreaks near Reeltown Monday in which one negro was killed and several wounded.

At least one other negro, Ned Cobb, was held in jail here and several still were at Tuskegee, with officers estimating that all told 12 were under arrest. No formal charge had been made against Cobb.

The seven charged with assault to murder in warrants sworn out today were: Walter Pogue, Alfred White, Lloyd Simpson, Emmett Wood, Jug Moss, Bud Greathouse and Judson Simpson. The last was in serious condition from wounds received at his home Monday night.

TALLASSEE, Ala., Dec. 21.—The battle between white posses and negroes in troubled Tallapoosa county drew criticism today from the International Labor Defense league as a blow at the Share Croppers union while conflicting reports of the dead, injured and arrested persisted.

Officers blamed the disturbance that started Monday when four sheriff's deputies reported themselves wounded in a brush with a band of approximately 100 negroes as they sought to attack a negro farmer's livestock on "radical" incitation.

Calls Off Hunt

Sheriff Young called off the hunt for those wanted in the wounding of the deputies yesterday and said his action was to prevent the shedding of innocent blood. Officers said they had obtained the names of all leaders of the local Share Croppers union and that they were the only ones sought. Arrests, they said, were planned as the negroes came from hiding.

The deputies wounded were Clifford S. Elder, D. Ware, J. H. Alford and J. M. Gantt. Officers of the posses said they had found quantities of pamphlets and literature they described as "communistic" in their hunt for leaders of the disturbance.

Two Tallapoosa Negroes Expire

Death Toll in Clash With Officers Now Stands at Three

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 27 (AP) Two Negroes, shot during the racial disorders in Tallapoosa county last week, died of their wounds here Tuesday, bringing to three the number killed as a result of the trouble.

Cliff Jeans, Negro at whose farm home a gun battle between alleged members of the Share Croppers' union and Tallapoosa county officers took place, died in the county jail, and a few hours later Milo Bentley died at the Kilby prison hospital.

A Negro named Jim McMullen was found dead at the Jeans home after the gun battle in which four deputies sheriff were wounded.

NEGROES JAILED IN RACIAL CLASH

Seven Accused of Assault to Murder in Connection With Shooting of Deputies

DADEVILLE, Ala., Dec. 21 (AP).—Seven Negroes charged with assault with intent to murder four deputies sheriff, were held in jail here Wednesday night, as authorities sought to bring to a central location all suspects held in connection with the outbreaks near Reeltown Monday, in which one Negro was killed and several wounded.

At least one other Negro, Ned Cobb, was held in jail here and several still were at Tuskegee, with officers estimating that all told 12 were under arrest. No formal charge had been made against Cobb.

Seven Arrested

The seven charged with assault to murder in warrants sworn out were: Walter Pogue, Alfred White, Lloyd Simpson, Emmett Wood, Jug Moss, Bud Greathouse and Judson Simpson. The latter was in serious condition from wounds received at his home Monday night.

Ned Cobb, suffering from a bullet wound in the hip, was brought here with three other Negroes Wednesday afternoon, but Milo (Boss) Bentley, arrested with Cobb at Cheraw Tuesday night by Sheriff T. A. Riley and deputies of Macon county, was in such serious condition he could not be moved.

Young Brings Man Hunters In

Sheriff Halts Search For Negroes To Keep From Spilling Innocent Blood

DADEVILLE, ALA., Dec. [illegible].—Sheriff Kyle Young, of Tallapoosa County, was advised tonight of the arrest of Ned Cobb and another negro named Bentley, in Notasulga by Sheriff Riley, of Macon County. Sheriff Riley reported that Bentley had resisted arrest and that "it was necessary to shoot him." He advised Sheriff Young that if he "wanted the prisoners he had better come running." Sheriff Young left immediately for Tuskegee.

Ned Cobb was reported to have been wounded in the hip Monday. Bentley, it was said, was severely wounded.

DADEVILLE, ALA., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Quiet reigned in Tallapoosa County tonight after 24 hours of disturbances that caused the death of one negro, wounding of four deputies sheriff, and arrest of six alleged leaders of the Share Croppers Union.

Sheriff J. Kyle Young early this afternoon called in a posse numbering approximately 100 officers and citizens who had surrounded a swamp three miles from Reeltown, where three of the alleged leaders were believed to have sought sanctuary.

On his return here, Sheriff Young merely said the search had been called off, but later told the Associated Press his action was to prevent innocent men shedding blood.

"I have called the hunt off until the crowds clear away," said Sheriff Young. "Then I'm going over there sometime with some officers, and get the men we want."

"Some innocent man might get killed the way things are, and I don't want that to happen. I've got some negroes here, and I've got some charges against them, but I'm not saying how many I've got, or what the charges are.

"I'm being worried already with telegrams from Birmingham communists, when I get ready to say something I want to have something to say."

The sheriff declined to let the docket

be inspected, or to identify the negroes. Their names were obtained from other sources, except for one.

Reputed Leader Wounded

The report was prevalent here tonight that Judson Simpson, reputed leader of the union, first reported killed and then reported under care of a physician, had been brought to Tuskegee and that his wounds were not as serious as reported last night. Sheriff Young and other officials refused to deny or confirm the report.

Members of the posse said the negroes believed to be hiding in the swamp which was near the home of Cliff Jeans where the disturbances had their inception, were two brothers of Judson Simpson, and another negro unidentified.

While Sheriff Young declined to discuss his next move with newspapermen, other officials said the six or eight leaders the posse sought apparently had escaped or gone into hiding and would be taken into custody on their return.

Officers said they obtained the names of all the leaders of the local Share Croppers Union, and that they were the only ones sought.

Four of the six negroes held were in jail here tonight, but Sheriff Young declined to reveal the name of one of them. The other three were Bud Greathouse, Walter Pogue and Chug Moss. Two others, Andrew Cobb and Robert Warren, were held at Wetumpka. Recheck of reports of those killed today showed only Jim McMullen, reputed leader of the union, known dead. His body was at the home of Cliff Jeans where the uprising began.

Aside from the Reeltown area where Deputies Clifford Selder, D. Ware, J. H. Alford and J. M. Gantt, said they were fired on by negroes as they went to serve a writ of attachment on Jeans, the county was quiet today, and business went along normally.

Negroes were seen in every town in the county and at their homes along the road by newspapermen who followed as best they could the activities of the posse, despite orders from Sheriff Young. One group of newspapermen stood in the road within sight of the posse surrounding the swamp discussing commonplace things. One of the possemen said "we know the leaders and we are after them. Those not implicated will not be molested."

Possemen in the search for leaders last night seized quantities of pamphlets described as "Communistic" and numbers of letters from headquarters at Birmingham instructing "captains" in the union how to proceed in case of official intervention.

Many of the pamphlets instructed "members" to demand greater shares of their crops, the privilege of selling their cotton as they chose and social and political equality.

In July, 1931, Sheriff Young was critically wounded, a deputy less seriously hurt and a negro, Ralph Gray killed as the officers sought to approach a church where an alleged meeting of the union was being held.

As posses sought to round up the leaders then, several exchanges of shots took place and two or three negroes were wounded.

Many pamphlets similar to those seized last night were found then. Just a day or two prior to the 1931 outbreak, Sheriff Young had broken up a meeting here.

State Representative J. H. Lovelace of Dadeville, said tonight he would introduce a bill in the special session of the Legislature, called today to meet next month, to liberalize laws against sedition, and inciting to riot in Alabama. He said he would attempt to give Alabama courts more jurisdiction in these matters.

Lovelace said every negro tenant on his farm was on the mailing list of a communist organization in Birmingham.

Feeling Intense; Negroes Moved To Montgomery

Governor Threatened With Communistic Reprisals In Tallapoosa Shooting

Oath Clue Sought

Labor Defense Irritated By Refusal Of Alabama To Free Negro Prisoners

It was learned Saturday that owing to the state of feeling in the eastern section of Tallapoosa County, adjoining Macon County, against the negroes who shot down four sheriff's deputies who attempted to serve a civil paper on Clifford James of the Reeltown neighborhood, the five negroes in the Tuskegee jail were removed to Montgomery Friday night, three of them wounded. The negroes were Clifford James, Milo Bentley, Thomas Moss, Jug Moss and Ivy Moss.

Another development Saturday which definitely connected the negroes who defied the law with the Share Croppers Union was the finding of a Share Croppers Union card on one of the negroes showing that he was a paid up member and giving the amount of the yearly dues. This union, it is generally believed in Tallapoosa County, is allied with the communistic movement in the United States and the idea is that the communists thought they would find a fertile field in which to work among the negroes of that county.

Governor Threatened

Gov. Miller said Saturday that he continues to receive threatening telegrams from communistic and other allied organizations in the United States demanding the release of the negroes guilty of shooting the four officers in Tallapoosa County and also the negroes who were convicted of criminal assault on two white girls at or near Scottsboro. Gov. Miller said he had not heard of the general report that the members of the Share Croppers Union take an oath when they join that order which may be subversive to government. The report is general that an oath is taken by the members but efforts by Advertiser representatives Saturday to obtain a copy of the oath were unavailing.

A statement was given out by the International Labor Defense, Southern District, with headquarters in Birmingham Saturday to the effect that the organization had employed attorneys to represent the negroes who are accused of shooting the officers in Tallapoosa County. The statement said that Frank B. Irwin had been employed to defend the men. The statement said Irwin and Mrs. E. M. Cooper, a representative of the organization, visited the prisoners in the Tallapoosa, Macon, Elmore and Montgomery County jails.

Irwin Meets Prisoners

Irwin, the statement says, was permitted to speak to ten prisoners in the Tallapoosa County Jail. Mrs. Cooper was not allowed to see the prisoners. The statement says that Sheriff Riley of Monroe refused to allow a conference with the prisoners or "to give any sort of information." Closing the statement, the organizations said:

"The International Labor Defense announced that it will defend all of the victims of this outrageous attack upon the Negro tenners and share croppers organizing for the right to live. The ILD will wage a determined and continuous fight for the rights of both workers and farmers to free speech, and the right to organize.

"The ILD will not be intimidated or stopped in its fight for the release of the Scottsboro boys and the Tallapoosa farmers, by the attacks which are being made on it such as the raid on the Southern District office at Birmingham and arrests of its representatives."

DEATH CLAIMS TWO MORE IN FARMERS-OFFICERS CLASH

Montgomery, Ala.—Death claimed two more of the principals in the clash last week between officers and Negro farmers in Tallapoosa County. Clifford James and Milo Bentley succumbed to wounds received in the battle here Tuesday. James passed away in the county jail where he was placed several days ago from the Macon County jail where he surrendered to officers. Milo Bentley died at Kilby prison hospital shortly after being taken there from the jail on orders of the Governor when it was found he was in a critical condition from shot wounds.

The death of James and Bentley brings the total fatalities to three, Jim Mullen having been killed by sheriff's deputies at the scene of the trouble.

The trouble was provoked last week when deputies sought to attach live stock owned by Clifford James. When James refused to release the stock the deputy went for help, bringing three others and the gun battle was on. The four deputies were injured slightly, one Negro killed and many others wounded. James fled and when he surrendered to Sheriff Riley of Macon County last week he gave this story of the trouble:

"I ran from my house before the first shot was fired, was wounded by a shot, and made my way on foot to Tuskegee, arriving there Wednesday night. I asked officials at Tuskegee Institute to accompany me to the Macon County jail."

James said he bought a 77-acre tract of land from W. S. Parker of Notasulga in 1924 for $1,600 and that he owed a balance of $960. Early this year Parker asked him for a payment of at least $80, he said, and when he was unable to make it Parker suggested making a note for the amount. Parker left him to "study on it," he said.

He said the matter had not been discussed further and that the next development was when Deputy Clifford Elder arrived at his house Monday with an attachment for two mules and two cows which he insisted were unencumbered.

He admitted arguing with the officer and expressing surprise that Parker had secured the writ in the light of their previous conversation.

He said Ned Cobb, a neighbor, came up and remonstrated with the officer at which Deputy Elder declared, "I'm going back and get some more men and kill you all in a pile."

Killings–1932

Negro Appeals In Birmingham Death

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 23.—(AP)—A new trial was sought today for Willie Peterson, negro sentenced to die for the killing of Miss Augusta Williams, one of two Birmingham society girls slain last Aug. 4. 2-24-32

The charge that Horace F. Duggar, one of the jurors who convicted Peterson had a fixed opinion and expressed it previous to his selection for jury duty, was included in the motion for another trial. Montgomery,

It was also charged that the court erred in his oral charge to the jury in saying in substance "it ought not to take you but a few minutes to reach a verdict in this case."

Hearing of the plea was set for March 19, automatically staying electrocution of Peterson scheduled for March 4.

Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were fatally shot by a negro who also wounded Miss Nell Williams. Peterson was identified as the highwayman by Miss Nell Williams.

NEGRO TO DIE MARCH 4 FOR ASSAULT SLAYING

Birmingham Ala. 2-27-32

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 30.—(AP)—Willie Peterson, convicted of the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, of Birmingham, today was sentenced to die March 4 by Judge H. P. Heflin.

Judge Heflin later suspended the sentence pending an appeal by defense counsel for a new trial.

Asked if he had anything to say before sentence was passed, Peterson told the court "I'm not guilty, judge. I didn't commit the crime."

Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were fatally shot and Miss Nell Williams wounded by a negro who held them prisoners four hours on a lonely country road the night of August 4.

ATTY. JOHN W. ALTMAN TO HELP CONVICTED MAN

Reporter

A motion for a new trial in the Willie Peterson case has been made to Judge H. P. Heflin, and he has set it down to be heard on Saturday, March 19. The motion is signed by Attorneys John W. Altman, Walter S. Smith and J. R. Johnson. Attorney John W. Altman and Attorney Walter S. Smith, having recently come into the case, and the name of Attorney J. T. Roach, associated with Mr. Johnson in former trials does not appear. 2-27-32

The motion is made on several grounds, it is said, and among them is one alleged to be the attitude of Horace F. Dugger, a member of the jury which gave Willie Peterson the death penalty at his trial for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams. It charged that Dugger had a fixed opinion in the case and expressed it before his selection for jury duty. Birmingham Ala.

The motion also charges that the court erred in some of its rulings, and in part of its charge to the jury. Reference is made to that part of the charge where it is alleged that Judge H. P. Heflin said in substance: "It ought to take you but a few minutes to reach a verdict in this case."

This motion stays the execution of the sentence and further proceedings by the court against Willie Peterson until the hearing March 19th. He had already been sentenced to the electric chair, and the date of execution set for Friday, March 4th.

REWARD OFFERED IN FATAL ATTACK

Reporter

Interest was revived this week in investigation of the fatal injury early in November last year to Prof. L. R. Boaz, instructor at the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Institute, Normal, Ala., with the announcement that Governor B. M. Miller has ordered the posting of a $200 reward for the arrest and conviction of Prof. Boaz's attackers. 3-5-32

It is recalled that Prof. Boaz and a fellow instructor, Prof. Greene of A. and M., had come to Birmingham November 6th to attend a football game and early in the afternoon while riding in the Southside section of the city, probably on the Montgomery Highway in Five Points Community, were attacked by several young white men following an alleged automobile collision. Following the attack Prof. Boaz was picked up by someone and driven to the Legion Field where the game was being played and was found later by his companion in a dazed condition. He was taken to a local hotel and later on when his condition did not improve, was transferred to a hospital, dying some hours after being received there. Hospital attendants say he was in an unconscious state when received by them and no statement could be obtained as to who his attackers were. Prof. Greene, too, suffered injuries and could give no definite information of the attack at that time.

ALA. YOUTH VICTIM OF BOMBING TRAGEDY

Courier

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 25—(By ANP)—Despite the fact that she declared that she knew nothing of the affair, Mrs. Mabel Cline, a 42-year-old white woman was found guilty of first degree manslaughter in connection with the bombing of the Pure Milk Plant, here Tuesday morning. 2-27-32

The bombing occurred last summer in a price war and resulted in the death of a 20-year-old white youth, Ned Van Verksetyn and an 11-year-old boy, Richard Richardson. She declared that she was not connected with the crime, but evidence was rendered that showed that the bomb, composed of 25 sticks of dynamite was prepared in her home and with her knowledge. Pelham,

The most damaging evidence was given by Birge Gilpin, confessed driver of the automobile whom which he said R. Z. Bridges, white hurled the bomb. He declared that all of them were "in on the job" and that Mrs. Cline, who is the mother of two grown sons, knew all about it. Mrs. Mildred Chambers, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Cline is under indictment for murder in the first degree in the same case and is scheduled to face trial at an early date.

The verdict of guilty as charged, in connection with Mrs. Cline's case, was reached after a comparatively short deliberation and attorneys for her immediately filed a notice of appeal and the judge sentenced her from 7 to 10 years in prison.

Attacker Of Will Peterson Goes On Trial March 7th

Journal

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— (CNS)— Dent Williams, white man who attacked Willie Peterson, tubercular war veteran, in the local jail while the latter was being questioned in connection with an alleged assault on Williams' sister, will be tried on the charge of assault with intent to murder in the city court here on March 7. Peterson, whose first trial resulted in his conviction, is in jail under sentence of death pending the hearing of his appeal by the Alabama Supreme Court. 2-27-32

Williams secreted a revolver on his person and went into the jail firing several shots into the body of the accused man nearly killing him. Considerable doubt as to the guilt of Peterson arose following the failure of the first jury which heard his case to convict him.

Peterson Found Guilty In Slaying

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Death Sentence Decreed For Birmingham Negro In Society Girl's Murder

1-24-32

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 23.—(AP)—The death sentence was imposed on Willie Peterson, 37, negro, tonight for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent society girl.

The verdict recommending death was returned by the jury which weighed evidence in the negro's second trial less than an hour. Sentence will be pronounced next week when a date is set for his electrocution at the State Prison at Montgomery.

Defense attorneys filed notice of an appeal, which automatically carries a stay of sentence until the Alabama Supreme Court acts on the case.

Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were fatally shot and Miss Nell Williams was wounded last Aug. 4 on the side of Shades Mountain, four miles from Birmingham.

Miss Nell Williams, whose sister was slain, was the State's principal witness. She identified Peterson as the slayer who boarded their automobile and forced Miss Wood to follow a lonely mountain trail where they were held captive several hours before the highway man opened fire on them after attacking Miss Wood.

Peterson denied the slaying, claiming he had been in ill health two years and that he did not leave his neighborhood the day the girls were shot.

The negro was arrested several weeks after the slaying when Miss Nell Williams pointed him out on a downtown street as the slayer while she was en route to a cemetery to place flowers on the grave of her sister.

Peterson was carried to the State Prison at Montgomery for safekeeping and after his return here was shot during a conference in the Jefferson County jail by Dent Williams, brother of the slain girl. Williams is under a charge of assault with intent to murder in connection with the shooting of Peterson in the jail.

Reward Is Offered For White Slayer Of Negro

Advertiser

A State reward of $200 was authorized yesterday by Gov. Miller for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who early in November, 1931 attacked L. R. Boaz, negro student at the Teacher's College located at Normal Ala., and inflicted injuries from which Boaz later died. 3-1-32

The attack occurred in Jefferson County. Boaz and another negro from the same school were driving an automobile to Birmingham when their machine collided with a truck. They were talking to the driver of the truck, when a Ford car containing three or four white men drove up, stopped, and the occupants began abusing the negro students and then attacked them. Montgomery, Ala.

Boaz was struck over the head during the encounter, and suffered a concussion of the brain which proved fatal.

Both the sheriff's office in Jefferson County and the Birmingham Police Department having been unsuccessful in efforts to place the guilty parties under arrest it was thought a State reward might aid in their capture.

State Demands Death For Birmingham Negro

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 22.—(AP)—The State today demanded that Willie Peterson, negro, be sent to the electric chair for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl.

Prosecuting attorneys opened their arguments by telling the jury in Peterson's second trial that the State wanted no middle ground; that the death penalty alone can expiate the crime with which he is charged.

Additional arguments will be presented by the State and the defense tomorrow. The case is expected to be completed and placed in the hands of the jury by noon. 1-23-32

The defense rested today after Peterson took the stand and denied leaving home Aug. 4 when Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were shot fatally and Miss Williams's sister, Nell, was slightly wounded.

ATTORNEY FACES TRIAL IN SHOOTING OF NEGRO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 7.—(AP)—Dent Williams, young attorney, went on trial today charged with assault with intent to murder Willie Peterson, negro under sentence of death for slaying Williams' sister, one of two society girls killed last August 4.

Williams shot and seriously wounded Peterson last October in the Jefferson County jail shortly after the negro's arrest on the murder charge. He was picked up on a street here when Miss Nell Williams, who was wounded when her sister, Augusta, and Miss Jennie Wood were mortally wounded, said she recognized him as the slayer.

Peterson was convicted following his second trial January 30 and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby prison.

N.A.A.C.P. Leading Nation-Wide Fight To Save Peterson

NEW YORK, Mar. 10—Sentenced to death after two trials on a charge of murdering a white woman, shot and seriously wounded during a conference in prison by a brother of the woman, and believed to be an innocent victim of a frame-up, Willie Peterson is the center of a case which is stirring the city of Birmingham, Alabama.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in response to an urgent appeal from Dr. Charles A. J. McPherson, secretary of the Birmingham N. A. A. C. P., has sent its check for $500 to aid the local colored citizens in retaining a prominent attorney to appeal the conviction. John Altman, reputed to be one of the very best lawyers in the state of Alabama, has been retained by a group of local colored people, working under the leadership of Dr. McPherson, and he will be assisted in the preparation of all legal documents by advice from the N. A. A. C. P. National Legal Committee.

Peterson has denied his guilt from the very beginning, and some of the testimony given against him was proved to be framed. At his first trial, which began December 7th, and lasted five days, a number of witnesses established an alibi for Peterson and a mistrial was declared. The second trial, begun January 16th, brought a death sentence to take effect today, March 4th. Notice of appeal automatically stayed execution.

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Peterson, who was suffering from tuberculosis, had borne a good reputation, had been a church member, and had not before been in trouble, was suddenly seized on the street when the surviving white woman, passing in an automobile, screamed that he was the Negro who had shot her.

Dr. McPherson reports that church, professional and business people among the colored citizenry of Birmingham are rallying to the defense of Peterson, whom they believe to be entirely innocent. Churches are taking up collections and the city is thoroughly roused.

Ku Klux Klan Parades

"This afternoon the K. K. K. was parading in automobiles in Woodlawn," writes Dr. McPherson under date of March 2, "the same section of the city in whic . Peterson resided before his arrest. We are not, however, to be deterred by anything which they may do . . . We expect to encounter opposition one way or the other."

The situation in Alabama has been very tense and every effort will be put forth to see to it that Peterson is given the best possible defense, and numbers of white people are expressing their belief that Peterson is innocent. Dr. McPherson reports that "large numbers of high class, intelligent white people" have called Attorney Altman on the telephone and in person, congratulating him on entering the case, and stating that a goodly section of the public endorsed his action.

ALABAMANS FIGHT TO SAVE LIFE OF MAN THEY BELIEVED FRAMED

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History of Case

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Dr. McPherson reports that church, professional, and business people among the colored citizenry of Birmingham are rallying to the defense of Peterson whom they believe to be entirely innocent, and that about $750 has been raised locally to date in addition to the check of $500 from the N. A. A. C. P. national office. Churches are taking up collections and the city is thoroughly aroused.

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The K. K. K. paraded in automobiles in Woodlawn on March 2, the same section of the city in which Peterson resided before his arrest.

"We are not, however, to be deterred by anything which they may do . . . We expect to encounter opposition one way or the other," says Dr. McPherson.

The N. A. A. C. P. has been in close touch with the case from the very beginning, Dr. McPherson having acted with local groups who raised funds to retain attorneys for the first two trials and having been constantly in touch with the N. A. A. C. P. national office.

Situation Tense

The Association realizing the present urgency of the need for funds locally in order to prefect the appeal of the case, forwarded its check and Dr. McPherson says that local colored citizens are enormously encouraged over the prompt aid extended by the national body.

The situation in Alabama has been very tense and every effort will be put forth to see to it that Peterson is given the best possible defense, and numbers of white people are expressing their belief that Peterson is innocent. Dr. McPherson reports that "large numbers of high class intelligent white people" have called Attorney Altman on the telephone and in person, congratulating him on entering the case and stating that a goodly section of the public endorsed his actions.

Dent Williams, brother of Nell Williams, Peterson's accuser, was scheduled to go on trial here March 7, on charges of assault with intent to murder.

WILLIAMS ACQUITTED OF SHOOTING NEGRO

Shot Man While He Was in Jail

Birmingham, Ala., March 8—Dent Williams, 24 year old lawyer, was acquitted today of assault with intent to murder Willie Peterson, Negro under sentence of death for slaying Williams' sister, one of two society girls killed August 4.

The jury returned the verdict 40 minutes after receiving the case. At the opening of the trial yesterday Williams pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

Williams shot Peterson while a prisoner in the Jefferson county jail, Oct. 2. Peterson was arrested when Miss Nell Williams, who was wounded when her sister, Augusta, and Miss Jennie Wood were fatally shot passed him on a Birmingham street and said she recognized him as the slayer.

IS JUSTICE EQUALLY POISED?

Willie Peterson, a consumptive colored man, while walking the streets of Birmingham, Ala., was picked out by a white woman as the murderer of her sister and another young woman and also for attempting her life, simply because he had a hat resembling the one worn by the person who committed the deed. With only this evidence, Peterson was found guilty and sentenced to death. Dent Williams, brother of the young woman who accused Peterson, while on a visit at the jail with his sister to identify the accused, in a cowardly manner shot down the inoffensive man in the presence of officers. Peterson survived the shots. Williams was tried this week for the offense of assault and attempt to murder. Notwithstanding direct testimony that he shot Peterson, the jury found him not guilty. The evidence against Peterson, a Negro, was circumstantial, in fact, because he had on a hat resembling the one worn by some one, yet he was found guilty. Dent Williams, a white man, with positive evidence against him, was set free. Justice is indeed blind. Its poise has been lost; Willie Peterson on one side, Dent Williams on the other. God will be the final arbiter.

Killings-1932.

Alabama.

ONE DEAD AS SHARE CROPPERS AND OFFICERS CLASH

Birmingham Post

Tallassee, Ala. (Special)—This section, and the entire Tallapoosa County region with adjoining counties of the state, have been stirred this week over a serious clash of authorities with a number of Negroes living in the Reelton community, and this otherwise quiet section has taken on war-like proportions as Sheriff Young organized posses to search for several Negroes designated as leaders of what is called the Share Croppers Union, an organization formed, it is said, under auspices of the International Labor Defense.

Birmingham Age

12-24-32

Writ of Attachment Starts Trouble

The trouble started Monday afternoon when Deputy Sheriff C. E. Elder went to the home of Clifford James, a tenant farmer, to serve an attachment on a cow and a mule in James' possession. James refused to give up the animals, and the deputy went to Dadeville to secure help. He returned in the afternoon with Deputies G. A. Ware, J. M. Gantt and J. H. Alford. In the meantime, it is said, James had got several of his associates together and they resisted the efforts of the deputies. In the pitched battle all four deputies were injured, Jim McMullin, Negro, was killed, and several other Negroes were injured.

Sheriff Young at Dadeville was notified and within a few minutes he had organized posses, augmented by several white people and headed for James' cabin.

After the first encounter with deputies the Negroes fled to nearby woods and swamps, and the posses now numbering around 500 began a search for those thought to have been leaders, who were said by officers to be communists.

Trouble of a similar nature was had in the Camp Hill section of this county last year, at this time one Negro was slain and Sheriff Young seriously wounded. Officers claim that Communists are active in this section and have organized Negro share croppers into a union.

Sheriffs from Montgomery, Macon, Elmore and other adjoining counties to Tallapoosa joined in the hunt with Sheriff Young.

I. L. D. Will Defend

In a statement issued Tuesday from its Southern District Headquarters in the Martin Building, Birmingham, The International Labor Defense, denounced the attack as "a planned measure to break up the growing organization of the Share Croppers Union," and announced that "it will defend all those arrested in connection with the shooting in Tallapoosa County yesterday." The statement continues:

"The seizure of cows, mules, crops and any other article of value in the possession of the croppers, tenants and farmers is going on as a definite policy of the landlords and bankers to place the whole burden of the crisis on the backs of the already suffering masses. Foreclosures, evictions from houses and land, tax sales, and all manner of legal and illegal seizures are being used. This case is clear cut. Cliff James, owning only a mule and a cow, the mule which made it possible for him to make a bare living, and the cow which furnished milk for his children, and possibly a few cents more, were to be taken away. Thousands of other croppers and tenants face the same seizures. Both White and Negroes face the same attack on their means of life.

"Thus they have organized themselves together to struggle jointly against these seizures, for the right to sell their own co. . for a greater share of the crop, and for Federal Farm Relief.

"The I. L. D. is organizing a broad mass movement of protest against the brutal attack on the croppers. It will call upon all liberty loving people to protest against this murderous attempt to smash the Share Croppers Union. The I. L. D. will immediately take steps to arrange legal defense for all those arrested, and has wired Governor Miller demanding a stop to this action."

Large Number Arrested

A half dozen or more Negroes were placed in the Macon County jail at Tuskegee, and a large number are in the Tallapoosa County jail at Dadeville. The sheriff is still searching for James and a number of others connected with the organization.

Interracial Commission Issues Statement

The Alabama Interracial Commission, Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, Birmingham State Chairman, has issued the following statement:

"In view of the tragic events and consequent tension between the races in Alabama, the State Interracial Commision of Alabama has authorized a subcommittee to formulate and give to the public the following:

"The committee of the State Interracial Commission desires to put the people of Alabama on guard against certain sinister alien influences which at this time are seeking deliberately to sow discord between white and black. That such a condition exists is amply supported by testimony and documentary evidence beyond dispute. Subversive literature and personal solicitations are now, and for sometime have been, in wide but secret use while inflammatory propaganda has been broadcast through the press. Behind this malevolent activity there are able leadership, tireless energy world-wide organization and apparently unlimited money.

"These apostles of revolution pretend friendship for the Negro, but in our judgment are using him merely as a means of their own destructive ends. For example, they have employed counsel to defend the Negros in the Scottsboro case, yet their efforts in this case seem obviously directed to political rather than judicial ends. They have made it the occasion of propaganda so intemperate and antagonistic as to hurt rather than help the cause of the defendants. Indeed, there is a reason to believe that the execution of the defendants would be regarded and used by this group as a greater political asset than their release. In order that the unseemly assaults of these propagandists upon the honor of the state may be effectively silenced, we hope to see a careful review of these cases in the courts, that all lingering doubts may be cleared up, if possible, and each of the accused be dealt with on the basis of ascertain guilt or innocence.

"This is but one illustration of the activities of Communist propagandists in Alabama. Race hatred and discord of every type may be said, without exaggeration, to be their immediate object, since they are following a course which will produce these things and their ultimate purpose will be served by them. Communism, it appears, in its hope of world revolution, has chosen the Southern Negro as the American group most likely to respond to its revolutionary appeal.

We are confident, however, that the two races in the South cannot be alienated. We have been through too much together, we understand each other too well; our progress toward right relations is too definite; our interests are too closely intertwined for any outside influence, however cunning, to force us apart.

"In these troubled circumstances, the only feasible and final method of safety is to stand together. To this end there ought to be frank conferences between the two peoples, assurance of sympathy, and mutual helpfulness. Both of us ought to exercise the highest degree of self-control. One moment's yielding at such a time might destroy the work of a score of years and delight the heart of our common foe.

"Two things are especially important: Officers of the law must be just, fair and impartial, and all of us must guard against condemning a whole race for the action of a few criminals of that race.

"Our common faith must bind us together as children of one Divine Father and workers in one sacred cause. Our allegiance to God, to humanity and to our state are at stake. God keep us from any false step that may cause terror and madness to flame among us and destroy the fair fruit of our life together."

The committee preparing the statement is composed of Dr. H. M. Edmonds, state chairman, and pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Dr. C. B. Glenn, superintendent of city schools, Birmingham; Robert M. Jemison, Jr., Birmingham; Robinson Brown, University, Ala.; Dr. Morris Newfield, of Temple Emanu-El, Birmingham, and the Rt Rev. William G. McDowell, of Birmingham, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama.

Killings-1932

N. A. A. C. P. Backs Fight For Peterson

Tuscumbia

Sentenced to Death for Killing

3-19-32

TWO WHITE WOMEN

Decatur Ala.

Was Shot in Jail by Brother of One Victim

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Tuscumbia 3-19-32

Decatur Ala.

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Shot By Raider, Negro Drowned

Advertiser 4-15-32

Wounds Found On Body In Lake Near Still Site; Sheriff Will Investigate

Huntsville Times Ala.

A thorough investigation of the shooting and drowning of Charlie Hendricks 19-year-old negro, whose body was dragged from a lake yesterday near the farm of T. T. Charles, on the Ware's Ferry Road, following a still raid Tuesday night by county, city and Federal officers, was promised last night by Sheriff Sam Stearns.

Coroner John J. Diffly said last night that he had held an inquest over the body and found that the negro died of drowning. He reported that "two No. 9 birdshot" were picked out of the boy's head, but said these did not penetrate deep enough to cause his death. The undertaking firm corroborated this statement and said not more than a half dozen birdshot struck the boy.

Just who fired the shots was not clear last night. Sheriff Stearns said that Deputies Addie Moseley and Hayden Sellers aided in raiding the still and Moseley had reported to him that the negro had leaped into a lake and vanished. Sheriff Stearns said he did not know who did the shooting, but that he would make a full investigation of the affair today. He reported that the officers who accompanied Deputies Sellers and Moseley were City Officers McElvain and Baker and Federal Officers Myrick and Phillips.

One negro, Miles Hall, was arrested during the raid, and a third negro was reported to have escaped. Hall was released on bond.

Sheriff Stearns expressed regret over the affair, and declared it to be "the first thing of this kind that has happened since I've been sheriff."

"I have cautioned my men to be careful about shooting, and I do not approve of shooting in a case like this," he continued, "Someone must have shot while the negro was running, because Coroner Diffly found three shots in the back of the negro's head.

"Deputy Moseley told me the night of the still raid that he saw the negro jump in the lake and that he thought the man escaped. At that time nothing was said about any shooting," the Sheriff declared. "I haven't had a chance to talk with the men since the body was found but I'm going to find out exactly what happened, and if one of the men fired a shot I'm going to know why."

Coroner Diffly stated that the officers were apprehensive and revisited the lake Wednesday following the shooting of the boy the night before. The body was found in the lake yesterday morning by negroes who live near the place, and the Sheriff's office was notified. The body was removed to the Loveless Undertaking Parlors.

HEARING ON NEW TRIAL FOR PETERSON SET FOR APRIL 9

Reporter

Hearing on new trial for Willie Peterson, who was convicted several months ago and sentenced to the electric chair on the charge of murdering Miss Augusta Williams, August 4, 1931, is set for Saturday morning, April 9, before Judge H. P. Heflin.

It will be remembered that Willie Peterson has been before the court in two different trials before this hearing. The first effort resulted in a mistrial after the jury deliberated 44 hours; in the second trial he was convicted.

Birmingham Ala.

The story of this tragedy, Peterson's constant denial of his guilt and the circumstances surrounding the case have caused nation-wide comment. The defense is being handled now by the Honorable John W. Altman and Attorneys Smith and Johnson.

Negro Woman, Shot By White Man, May Die

Advertiser

Clara Daniels, negro woman, 132 Hunt Street, was shot in the head last night while walking on a road near her home. Negroes told police they saw a white man shoot her and then drive away in an automobile. No motive for the shooting was advanced.

Montgomery Ala.

The woman was taken to a hospital where attaches said she apparently had little chance to survive.

PETERSON HEARING IS AGAIN POSTPONED

Reporter

The hearing for a new trial for Willie Peterson scheduled to come up in Judge H. P. Heflin's court Saturday, May 21st, was again postponed and a new date set for Saturday, June 4th. The postponement was agreed to by both the state and defense counsel. This is the third time the hearing has been postponed.

Birmingham Ala. 4-26-32

Keep Boy In Death Cell

Tuscumbia 5-12-32

Altho Alabama Supreme Court Reverses

Savannah, Ga.

WILLIAMS' SENTENCE

Terrorize Him and Other Scottsboro Boys

New York, May 9—Fourteen year old Eugene Williams, one of the nine Negro Scottsboro boys, and the only one whose sentence of death was reversed on March 24th, by the Alabama Supreme Court, is still being terrorized in the death cell of Kilby prison. He, along with seven other innocent Scottsboro boys, is being constantly taunted by prison guards with such words as "Your turn will soon come."

Irving Schwab, one of the lawyers who prepared an appeal to the United States Supreme Court for the nine Scottsboro boys, applied to have Eugene Williams transferred to Birmingham where Roy Wright, the ninth boy, is being held.

They refused to comply with Schwab's request, but told him to see Judge Hawkins, the same lynch judge who sentenced the innocent boy.

Further investigation by Schwab revealed that, according to Alabama law, this innocent boy must remain in the death cell even after the decision was reversed by the Alabama Supreme Court, until the Scottsboro probate judge orders his removal.

Williams has now been in the death cell for over 40 days since that decision—with no conviction of any crime remaining on the record. He is being tortured there —a fourteen year old child—while still awaiting trial.

SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON CASE

Courier

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 9—Willie Peterson, Alabama's "silent martyr," has been denied a new trial!

6-11-32

The man who was picked up on the streets of Birmingham several months after two girls had been killed, following a "twilight kidnapping," — the man who was shot by a brother of the dead girl as a sheriff looked on — the man over whose fate a white jury disagreed after 44 hours of deliberation,—the man who was later convicted and sentenced by a judge who was alleged to have made prejudicial statements and by a jury on which sat a man who is alleged to have made the statement that he would convict Peterson and "break his neck,"—must go to a higher court for the justice which he seeks.

The motion for a new trial in the conviction of Peterson for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, white, was denied Friday by Judge Heflin after a hearing in which the court denied making certain statements attributed to him in his charge to the jury when the man was sentenced to death, January 22.

To Appeal Decision

Immediately following the judge's refusal to grant a new trial, Peterson's counsel declared that the case will be carried to the Supreme Court.

Courier

The contention set forth by Peterson's counsel was that Judge Heflin's charge to the jury was prejudicial to the defendant and that one of the jurors had previous to the trial made statements which indicated an opinion that would render him incapable of giving a fair verdict.

6-11-32

According to Attorney G. R. Johnson, Peterson's attorney, the judge made the remark: "This is a most atrocious and inhuman crime," and "if you fail to render a verdict in this case, you will not do your duty." It was also alleged tha the jurister indicated that the verdict should not take "but a few minutes."

Bill Sing

Peterson was framed for the murder here last August of two society girls, Nell Williams, another girl who was with the two at the time, picked out Williams on the street many weeks after the murder and accused him. Her brother, Dent Williams, went to the jail shortly after Peterson's arrest and shot him several times as he stood in his cell.

Negro Is Missing After Explosion

Advertiser

Cleveland Avenue Grocery Destroyed By Flames Following Mystery Blast

6-13-32

A negro boy is missing today and a Cleveland Avenue grocery store and filling station is in ruins as a result of a mysterious exlposion that shook neighboring houses at midnight last night.

The store, the Hall I. G. A. Store, 1006 Cleveland Avenue, is occupied at night by a young negro known to neighbors only as "Dave," according to firemen. This negro did not escape from the inferno that enveloped the small frame building immediately after the explosion, spectators said, and it is feared he perished in the flames. Firemen searched the ruins for his body but found nothing. It could not be definitely determined early today that the negro had slept in the store last night.

Negroes living near the store said the proprietor, Hall, lived on Pineleaf Street, Oak Park. The city directory lists Lonnie H. Hall as operator of a grocery at 138 Pineleaf and also at 908 South Hall Street and at 627 Madison Avenue. A. M. Hall is listed as living at 204 Pineleaf Street, but efforts to located these persons early this morning were unavailing.

Montgomery

The explosion puzzled firemen, as it occurred inside the store, where combustibles likely would not be stored. The business is a combination grocery and filling station, and gas and oil were stored in the front, but the blast occurred several feet from them. The north and south walls of the building were blown 12 or 15 feet away and flames following the explosion quickly destroyed the building.

Firemen were told that a boy had seen a small coupe driven from the store immediately after the blast, leading firemen to believe the blast might have been the work of enemies of the grocer.

Negroes living near the store said Hall and the negro, Dave, went fishing yesterday morning, but they were believed to have returned before last night, since they would have had to open the store early this morning. No one saw Dave after he left with Hall yesterday morning, so far as could be learned at the scene of the explosion, but spectators attracted to the building by the explosion said they were sure he did not flee from the burning building.

Negro Believed Trapped In Blast Here Turns Up Few Hours Later

Advertiser 6-14-32

Fear that David Jackson, negro youth had perished in the explosion and fire early yesterday morning that destroyed Hall's I. G. A. Store, 1006 Cleveland Avenue, was allayed when he arrived at the scene about seven hours later. The boy who had been acting as night watchman was known to have stayed in a shed at the rear of the store and spectators told firemen they believed he had burned to death.

Montgomery

L. H. Hall, proprietor of the store, told Fire Inspector J. J. Herlong that the negro often remained at the store until about 10 p.m. as watchman and then went to his home on Proctor Street. Jackson told Inspector Herlong that he left the place about three hours before the fire and that he had no idea what caused the blast.

Mr. Hall said he had been in the store early Sunday night but that he left with his family about 8:30, leaving Jackson in the rear as watchman. Hall told the inspector he could advance no theory as to the cause of the explosion or fire. The proprietor said he did not learn of the fire until after daylight.

Firemen were told by a spectator that he had seen a small coupe driven from in front of the store a few seconds before the explosion, leading them to believe the blast may have been the work of enemies of Mr. Hall. Inspector Herlong was continuing his investigation yesterday afternoon in an effort to determine the cause of the blast.

The inspector stated the fire appeared to have begun on the floor, and probably preceded the explosion. Had the firemen received a call to the store a few minutes earlier, Mr. Herlong said, it was probable that a dozen or more would have been killed by the explosion. Both the north and south walls of the building were blown about 12 feet from the structure.

The building, owned by a Mr. Crittendon, of Shady Grove, was covered by $1,000 in insurance. The stock and fixtures, owned by Mr. Hall, were insured for $1,750.

$200 Reward Offered For Ex-Sheriff's Slayer

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

At the request of Solicitor Joe M Pelham, Jr., Gov. Miller yesterday, authorized payment by the State of a reward of $200 for the arrest and conviction of Andrew Curtis, negro, charged with the murder of C. E. Cox, former sheriff of Clarke County.

6-26-32

The tragedy occurred on the night of June 22. Cox escaped, and despite the most strenuous efforts to locate him, has so far managed to elude capture. It is believed, however, that he is probably hiding somewhere in the Counties of Clarke or Washington.

Willie Peterson Case To Ala. Supreme Court

Courier

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Attorneys for Willie Peterson, convicted of attack upon a white girl, and shot the girl's brother in prison, will carry an appeal in his case to the Supreme Court of Alabama. Peterson was sentenced to death following the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams on August 4, last. The N. A. A. C. P. has contributed $500 to the cost of the defense which is being headed by John W. Altman, one of the best criminal lawyers in the South.

6-24-32

Notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court was given when the trial judge, H. P. Heflin denied a motion for a new trial. It is alleged that one of the jurors who convicted Peterson admitted prejudice before the trial, and that Judge Heflin himself made prejudicial remarks in charging the jury.

Posse Kills Negro Who Slew Sheriff

Constitution

6-30-32

OPELIKA, Ala., June 29.—(AP)—A crazed negro today killed Sheriff W. S. Jones, of Lee county, after wounding two negroes and slashing his wife's throat and himself was killed a short time later by a posse which cornered him in a corn field, three miles from here, and poured 150 shots into his body.

Lee county officers said the negro, Charles Miller, started his shooting rampage by seriously wounding Taylor Matthews and his wife, negroes. He then returned home and killed his own wife, slashing her throat with a razor.

6-30-32

Sheriff Jones, notified of the slaying, went to Miller's home and was shot down as he opened the front door.

The negro fled, but was overtaken by an armed posse three miles from town in a corn field and shot down as he resisted arrest.

Negro Sought In Guard's Shooting

Advertiser

ANNISTON, ALA., Aug. 22.—(AP)—A. P. Sealy, convict guard, of Tuscaloosa, was in a critical condition today while Calhoun County officers sought a negro highwayman who shot Sealy and beat his 17-year-old girl companion into unconsciousness on a highway five miles from here Saturday night.

8-23-32

Sealy said the negro jumped on the running board of his car and at the point of a shotgun forced him to halt. He said the negro relieved him of his pistol and fired a bullet into his face and another into his shoulder.

After the shooting the girl was beaten over the head with the shotgun. The couple were picked up a few minutes later by passing motorists and their automobile was found parked on an Anniston street yesterday. The shotgun found beside the couple was identified as one stolen from a nearby farmhouse.

Sheriff A. M. Borders said he had a description of two negroes believed to be involved in the attack.

Sealy, whose home is Tuscaloosa, is employed at a convict camp at Pell City. His companion, whose name was withheld, lives at Lincoln.

Negro Slain, Wife Shot, Two Jailed

Advertiser

An argument believed to have been over payment on a dress resulted early yesterday in the death of L. C. Jones, negro of 78 Chilton Street, the wounding of his wife, Viola, and the arrest of Sullivan and Alberta Jones, also negroes, on a charge of murder.

9-19-30

Following the attempt of Viola Jones to collect some money from Alberta Jones for a dress, an altercation developed in which the other negroes took part. When police arrived at the scene of the fight on Chilton Street, they arrested Ben Lamar, a negro, and Alberta Jones on charges of assault and battery in connection with the wounding of Viola Jones.

Montgomery

Shortly after Viola Jones returned to her home, she learned that her husband had been cut fatally in the same fight. She returned to police headquarters and signed a warrant charging Sullivan and Alberta Jones with his murder. Viola told officers that Alberta had plunged a knife into her husband after he had been struck to the ground by Sullivan.

3 Slain Every 2 Days In Alabama

Advertiser

10-9-32

An average of slightly more than three persons were slain for every two days of the past year ending Sept. 30, according to a report issued by the bureau of vital statistics of the Alabama Health Department.

Montgomery, Ala.

The report shows that 500 were killed at the hands of others while an additional 219 committed suicide.

The chief cause of deaths was heart diseases which claimed 3,136 persons or 11 per cent of the total number of deaths. Nephritiz ranked next as the most frequent cause with 2,367; tuberculosis was third and pneumonia fourth.

Deaths by accident held sixth place and have been lessened by 11 per cent since 1929. According to the report, 1,574 persons were accidentally killed.

There were 62,740 births during the year, less than for any one year in the past nine years, it was reported.

Killings - 1932

Alleged Slayer Of Two Society Girls Arraigned

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 8.—(AP)—Willie Peterson, negro, charged with the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, was arraigned today preliminary to his second trial scheduled for Jan. 18.

Peterson's first trial resulted in a deadlocked jury. 1-9-32

Miss Williams was slain the night of Aug. 4 when her sister, Nell, was slightly wounded and a companion, Miss Jennie Wood, was fatally shot.

At his first trial Peterson was identified from the witness stand by Miss Nell Williams, the State's principal witness, as the negro responsible for the shooting.

NEGRO SLAYER IS IDENTIFIED

Telegraph

Woman Points Him Out as Man Who Murdered Couple

1-19-32

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 18. (AP) Miss Nell Williams today repeated from the witness stand her identification of Willie Peterson as the Negro who killed her sister and a companion last August 4, on a lonely Shades mountain trail.

Testifying at the Negro's second trial on a charge of slaying her sister, Augusta, Miss Williams recited events preceding the shooting, and pointing at Peterson, said: "That Negro is responsible for the shooting."

Miss Williams was wounded when her sister and a companion, Jennie Wood, were fatally shot on the mountain side, four miles from mingham. Dr. Adrian Taylor witness called today, test Miss Wood was attacked was shot.

Peterson was tried severa ago but the proceedings ended deadlocked jury which was discharged after deliberating 44 hours.

Attorneys for the Negro said their defense would be the same as at the first trial when they attempted to establish an alibi for the defendant.

WHITE MAN MUST DIE FOR KILLING OF NEGRO

Constitution

Denial of the extraordinary motion for a new trial of Anthony Williams, white Burke county farmer, under sentence of death for the murder of Jim Scott, negro farm hand, was upheld by the supreme court Saturday.

The court unanimously refused to grant a new trial. Williams was tried only for killing Scott, although Scott's wife was slain at the same time.

Second Trial For Peterson Opens

Advertiser

1-19-32

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 18.—(AP)—Miss Nell Williams today repeated from the witness stand her identification of Willie Peterson as the negro who killed her sister and a companion last Aug. 4 on a lonely Shades Mountain trail.

Montgomery

Testifying at the Negro's second trial on a charge of slaying her sister, Augusta, Miss Williams recited events preceding the shooting, and pointing at Peterson, said:

"That negro is responsible for the shooting."

Miss Williams was wounded when her sister and a companion, Jennie Wood, were fatally shot on the mountain side, four miles from Birmingham. Dr. Adrian Taylor, a new witness called today, testified that Miss Wood was attacked before she was shot.

Peterson was tried several weeks ago but the proceedings ended in a deadlocked jury which was discharged after deliberating 44 hours.

Attorneys for the negro said their defense would be the same as in the first trial when they attempted to establish an alibi for the defendant and to show that he did not fit the description of the slayer first given by Miss Williams.

DRAGS IN RAPE CHARGE IN NEW PETERSON TRIAL

Daily Worker

1-23-32

New York

State Terrorizing Defense Witnesses

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 22. — The State has again put Willis Peterson, unemployed and tubercular Negro miner framed up for the murder of two society girls, on trial following the failure of the jury to agree in the first trial.

To clinch the conviction this time, the State has injected the rape angle.

Defense witnesses who saw Peterson on the porch of his home miles away from the scene of the crime at the time that the crime was committed have accused the prosecution of attempting to intimidate them. One defense witness has suddenly changed his testimony and joined the State in its attempt to railroad Peterson to the electric chair.

Despite the general conviction in Birmingham that Peterson is innocent the State is more determine than ever to burn him in the elect

terrorism

This is a direct act of terror against the Negro masses.

Find Peterson Guilty; Faces Death Chair

1-30-32

Chicago Defender

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 29.—After a relentless prosecution which lasted the better part of six days, a jury Saturday night found Willie Peterson guilty of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams and Miss Jennie Wood, both white, on the night of Aug. 4. This marked the conclusion of the second trial of Peterson, the first having ended in a mistrial when the jury failed to agree on a verdict after deliberating for 44 hours.

Defense counsel for Peterson, J. R. Johnson and J. T. Roach, both white, signified that they would enter a motion for a new trial for Peterson.

The case was heard before Judge H. P. Heflin.

This second trial was much more bitterly contested than the first. It was marked by frequent clashes between counsel and by three motions on the part of defense counsel to have the proceedings called a mistrial. Throughout the six days of the trial the defense lawyers ran into a concrete wall with their various motions. Two motions for a mistrial was based on the defense knowledge that one of the jurors, Horace Dugger, had been heard to express prejudicial remarks against the defendants in the courtroom after the first trial. Judge Heflin stood in the way of cleaning up the jury by informing Roach and Johnson that the proper place to advance such an issue was in a motion for a new trial.

Roach and Johnson were also checked in their efforts to prevent the prosecution, notably Assistant Solicitor Long, from expressing remarks in the presence of the jury which were prejudicial to the interest of the defendant. Practically every motion was overruled.

Peterson's Health Delays Trial

Futhermore, it is significant that all efforts on the part of Peterson's attorneys to disclose his physical condition were blocked as well as their attempt to secure a delay in the trial so that the weakened defendant, shot three times by the brother of the dead girl, might recover from hours of gruelling cross-examination to which he was subjected by the prosecutors. A white doctor was called in to discover how Peterson felt. The latter said he thought Peterson was putting on and that he felt well enough for the trial to proceed.

The prosecution rested its entire case on the identification of Miss Williams.

ALIBI DEFENSE IN CASE BEFORE JURY

Reporter

Willie Peterson, charged with the murder of Miss Augusta Williams on August 4th, 1931, is now being tried before Judge H. P. Heflin on the 6th floor of the Jefferson County Courthouse in the Criminal Division.

It is remembered that Willie Peterson was beore the court in December on the same charge, and after a trial lasting for nearly a week the jury deliberated for 44 hours without a decision. Judge J. Russell McElroy, who tried the case, entered a mistrial.

The second trial started Monday morning, January 18, and has been going along slowly since then. Practically the same evidence is being submitted with a few slight changes in the testimony of Miss Nell Williams, sister of the slain girl, star witness for the state and the only person to date who has identified Peterson as the guilty party. 1-23-32

The new phase in the evidence is that Miss Jennie Wood, who was in company with the Williams girls on August 4th, and who was also slain was attacked before she was shot.

Many witnesses, white and black have testified that they know Willie Peterson, and saw him many times on August 4th. They testify to the fact that they saw him about the time or the exact time that Miss Nell Williams says the attack and murder were committed.

Birmingham

The case will probably go to the jury late Friday evening or Saturday morning. Willie Peterson is expected to take the stand in his own defense.

It is recalled that when Peterson was brought from Kilby Prison near Montgomery to Birmingham, while in the jailhouse of Jefferson County, seated on a bed answering the questions of Asst. Solicitor J. McK. Long, in the presence of Sheriff James F. Hawkins, and members of the Williams family, which included Miss Nell Williams, he was shot three times by Dent Williams, a brother of Miss Augusta Williams. For a long time he lingered between life and death. At this trial he appears greatly improved.

The state is being represented by Attorney Roderick Beddow of the firm of Beddow, Fort and Ray, and Asst. Solicitor J. McK. Long. While Peterson is being represented by Attorneys J. T. Roach and J. R. Johnson.

PRISONER TO BE PROTECTED, SAYS SHERIFF

Call

1-22-32

Kansas City

First Trial Ended In Jury Deadlock; White Men Refused to Convict

BIRMINGHAM.—The second trial of Willie Peterson, charged with the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent white society girl here last August, was marked by close vigilance to prevent any acts of violence while the law got started Monday, Jan. 18.

First Trial Orderly

Outstanding for its careful conduct, the first trial of Peterson, who is also charged with the murder of Miss Jennie Wood as well as assault upon Miss Nell Williams, sole survivor of the trio, and sister of Miss Augusta Williams ended after a lengthy period of testimony followed by a jury deliberation that lasted for forty-four hours before the men deadlocked.

Miss Nell Williams positively pointed Peterson out on the stand as the guilty man while the defense paraded an array of witnesses who testified that Peterson, a sickly man had not been out of the neighborhood the day of the shooting.

One of the star witnesses for the defense was a white saleslady who sold cosmetics in that community.

Peterson on Stand

Peterson, placed on the stand, still showed some of the effects of his shooting at the jail by Dent Williams, brother of the two Williams

girls, while the defense brought out the fact that the ailing man, according to the state's contention, was in a better physical condition at the time of the trial than at the time of his arrest and that he would have been incapables of committing the deed. The defendant was in the army during the World war.

The accused man was defended by the firm of Roach and Johnson, Peterson having worked for the Johnsons some time ago. Mr. Roach and Mr. Johnson are both prepared for the coming court battle while the direction of the prosecution for the second trial will be led by Solicitor Lewis Bailes and his assistants Jim Long, chief prosecutor, and Jack Stuart.

Much Interest in Trial

Considerable interest was maintained throughout the first trial and thousands were unable to gain admittance to the court room on the sixth floor of the New Jefferson County Building. Every precaution was taken to safeguard the prisoner who was carried into the courtroom by two trusties and every person entering the trial room was carefully searched for weapons.

Peterson Renews Fight For His Life

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 19—(AP)—Willie Peterson, 37-year-old negro, renewed the battle for his life today with the opening of his defense in his second trial for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl.

The first of more than 50 defense witnesses testified today in support of Peterson's claim that he was at home when Miss Williams and her friend, Jennie Wood, were shot, and that a description given the night of the slaying by Miss Nell Williams, who was wounded, did not fit him.

The testimony was similar to that given during his first trial which ended when the jury failed to reach a verdict.

C. A. Nollner, police officer of suburban Mountain Brook, and Paul Sutter, ambulance attendant, testified Miss Nell Williams described the slayer to them the night of the slaying and that the description did not fit Peterson.

Before the two were called Miss Williams, who was the State's principal witness, was recalled and testified she did not give a description of the negro to Sutter and Nollner.

The State closed after presenting only five witnesses. Miss Williams repeated her identification of Peterson and told of an attack on Miss Wood before the negro opened fire with a pistol on all three.

The girls were returning home last Aug. 4 after watching the sunset from the top of Shades Mountain when a negro jumped on the running board of their automobile and forced Miss Wood to follow a seldom used trail.

They were shot after being held captive for hours.

Negro Found Guilty In Assault, Murder

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 23.—(AP)—The death sentence was imposed on Willie Peterson, 37, negro, tonight for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent society girl.

The verdict recommending death was returned by the jury which weighed evidence in the negro's second trial less than an hour. Sentence will be pronounced next week, when a date is set for his electrocution at the state prison at Montgomery.

Defense attorneys filed notice of an appeal, which automatically carries a stay of sentence until the Alabama supreme court acts on the case.

Miss Wiliams and Miss Jennie Wood were fatally shot and Miss Nell Williams was wounded last August 4 on the side of Shades mountain, four miles from Birmingham.

Miss Nell Williams, whose sister was slain, was the state's principal witness. She identified Peterson as the slayer who boarded their automobile and forced Miss Wood to follow a lonely mountain trail, where they were held captive several hours before the highwayman opened fire on them after attacking Miss Wood.

CLAIM GIRL ASSAULTED

Second Murder Trial of Birmingham Negro Opens.

BIRMINGHAM, Jan. 18.—(UP)—Testimony that Willie Peterson, negro, criminally assaulted Miss Jennie Woods, 22, Birmingham society girl, before he allegedly shot her to death was a matter of court record for the first time here today.

Miss Nell Williams, 18, lone survivor of three girls shot by a negro who held them captive for several hours, Aug. 4, testified this afternoon as Peterson's second trial began.

The negro's first trial on an indictment charging the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, a sister of Miss Nell Williams, resulted in a mistrial.

Dr. Adrian Taylor, who attended Miss Woods before she died at a hospital here, substantiated Miss Williams' testimony that she had been criminally assaulted.

Peterson Witnesses On Stand In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 20.—(AP)—Defense witnesses in the trial of Willie Peterson, negro, today described his movements last Aug. 4, the day the State charges he killed Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl.

Peterson's neighbors testified he was at home at the time Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were killed and Miss Nell Williams was wounded by a negro highwayman.

A third motion for a mistrial was denied today when defense attorneys challenged the competency of a juror on grounds he had expressed an opinion as to the negro's guilt.

Charges Denied By Birmingham Negro

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 21.—(AP)—Willie Peterson, negro on trial for his life, spent today on the witness stand denying the State's charge that he killed Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham Society girl.

Peterson testified he did not leave his neighborhood last Aug. 4, when Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were mortally wounded and Miss Nell Williams was slightly wounded.

Shot By Negro, Man Dies Here

E. A. Mosley Succumbs In Hospital But Officers 'Know Nothing' Of Case

Mysteriously shot about midnight Saturday, March 26, Edward Anderson Mosley, 25, died of a bullet wound in the abdomen early yesterday at a Montgomery hospital. Inquiry following the death yesterday brought to light the shooting for the first time.

Members of the Sheriff's office said yesterday afternoon that they "had not heard of a shooting and had not been told of the man's death." Questioning at other official sources of information brought the same answer.

Mosley was brought to the hospital critically wounded early last Sunday. The bullet, from a pistol or rifle, had pierced the abdomen.

Following inquiry at all branches of the law enforcement forces here and the Coroner's office, all of whom said "they did not know of the shooting," it was learned from a relative that Mosley had been shot by a negro and that members of the Sheriff's force had asked members of the family to "keep the shooting quiet."

Although the relative declared that "none of the family knows much about the shooting or where it happened, we do know that Anderson was shot by a negro."

It was explained that the Sheriff's men had asked the family "not to make the shooting public as the negro would learn by the newspapers that the affair had been reported to law enforcement officers, and would know that officers were searching for him." No arrest had been made yesterday after a week's investigation.

Relatives, acting on advice of the officers had intimated that the shooting had been accidental, it was learned.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Mosley, four brothers, W. A. Mosley, Elba and G. F., J. C. and J. W. Mosley, of Hope Hull, and six sisters, Mrs. Irene Davis, Montgomery; Mrs. Lela Atchison, Hayneville; Mrs. Lucy Lucky, Greenville; Mrs. Estelle Wynn, Burkeville; Mrs. Julia Cleghorn, and Mrs. Charlotte Urquhart, Hope Hull.

The body will be sent from the Leak Chapel today to the home on the Mobile Road where the funeral will be held at 3 p.m. Burial will be in Mosley Cemetery.

Negro Is Held For Shooting Warden

Louie Eason, negro, charged with shooting a game warden in Montgomery County last year, was bound over to the Grand Jury yesterday on $1,000 bond by Judge Winter Thorington in the Court of Common Pleas on charges of assault with intent to murder. The negro was arrested here recently by Sheriff's deputies.

C. A. Cohen, charged with manufacturing prohibited liquor, was bound over to the Grand Jury by Judge Thorington and placed under $500 bond. A negro, Milton Alford, was bound over on the same charge.

Charged with arson in connection with the burning of another negro woman's home, Rosa Hobson, negro, was bound over to the Grand Jury. Another negro woman, Pearl Robinson, was fined $50 and costs on charges of violating the prohibition law.

Will Newsom was fined $5 and cost for fishing without a permit and several other persons were fined for violation of highway traffic regulations.

Peterson Hearing In Alabama Again Postponed To April 30

NEW YORK—Hearing in the case of Willie Peterson, twice tried, and convicted of murder of two young white women, in Birmingham, Alabama, has again been postponed to April 30.

The postponement will enable the N.A.A.C.P. and local Birmingham citizens to add to the strength of the defense.

The N.A.A.C.P. has contributed $500 to date and the aid of its National Legal Committee.

Ex-Sheriff Slain Near Grove Hill

Crack Bloodhound Packs Trailing Negro With 150 Scouring Clarke County

GROVE HILL, ALA., June 22.—Bloodhounds from Meridian, Miss., followed by a posse of 150 men are tonight on the trail of Andrew Curtis, negro, who this morning shot and killed C. Ed Cox, former sheriff of this county. The killing took place at the farm of Mr. Cox's brother about 15 miles west of Grove Hill about 8 a.m.

Immediately afterwards a call was made on the State Prison Farm at Atmore for dogs and another call was made upon Meridian, Miss., for the Jenkins dogs. The Alabama dogs arrived first, but no effort was made to put them on the trail as it was known that the Jenkins dogs were on the way, and these dogs have such a reputation in Clarke County that it was considered advisable to take no chances on confusing the trail. The Jenkins dogs arrived about 5 p.m. and soon struck the trail which led in a southwestern direction into the swamps of Jackson Creek and Satilpa Creek.

The posse is headed by Sheriff C. A. White, and is made up of some of the prominent citizens of the county. There is no indication of the "mob" spirit, but the men are determined to bring the negro to justice in an orderly way.

The killing, it is stated, was the climax to an argument over the way the negro was working, or neglecting to work the crop on the Cox farm. Mr. Cox recently reprimanded the negro for his inattention to the duties on the farm and when the former sheriff arrived on the place this morning with supplies for the farm hands, some of whom are "share croppers," he again found it necessary to reprimand the negro upon discovering that the land assigned to Andrew had not been cultivated as directed. The negro opened fire upon Mr. Cox with fatal effect.

Mr. Cox was about 55 years old and has been prominently identified with Clarke County affairs for more than 20 years, serving as deputy sheriff, sheriff, and in other official capacities. He is survived by his widow and several near relatives. Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

Killings-1932

Alabama

THE PETERSON CASE REVIEWED BY SUPREME COURT

After a silence of days the mill of justice begins the fall grind.

The case of Willie Peterson, convicted of an atrocious crime, is to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. The case, as every one knows, has attracted unusual public attention on account of tangled conditions that have made it one of the mysteries in the criminal annals of this district.

The elements of doubt as to the identity of the perpetrator of the crime of which Peterson is accused has served to divide public opinion on the facts as brought out in court. While the chief prosecuting witness appears certain of having identified the right man, the alibi of Peterson is strong enough to sustain a large element of doubt in the minds of both white and colored people.

As will be recalled, the prisoner was sentenced to the electric chair at his trial in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, but an appeal has stayed the execution until the highest court of the State shall have passed on the merits of some contentions held by the defense.

As we have often said in these columns, the culprit responsible for this crime should be punished to the extent of the law, but we do believe that the certainty of punishing the right party should have the consideration that justice would demand if the culprit were otherwise than a Negro.

We do not see the good that can be done by any disposition of the case contrary to the principles of practical justice.

Perhaps, the motive and the attendant facts will never be thoroughly known but the community will not be better for this fact, nor will it be better for closing an incident on which time will tell the truth.

It is felt that the courts are just and this feeling gives the hope that all of those who have suffered from this crime may obtain such satisfaction as unprejudiced justice in the law can give.

FUNDS NEEDED FOR DEFENSE IN PETERSON CASE AS SUPREME COURT HEARING NEARS

There is much speculation these days on the case of Willie Peterson, a young Negro of Birmingham, who was convicted several months ago on his second trial on the charge of murder.

Willie Peterson was charged last year with assault and murder of a young white woman, Miss Augusta W Williams. On the first trial, taking up nearly a week, a jury remained out 44 hours, after which a mistrial was entered because it could not agree that Willie Peterson was the man who committed the crime. The second trial resulted in Peterson's conviction. He was sentenced to the electric chair.

A rehearing was asked by Attorney John W. Altman and his associate Attorney Smith, counsel for the defense, which was denied. The case has been appealed to the Supreme Court, and will probably come up late this fall, or during the early winter.

Willie Peterson, like thousands of poor people who find themselves in the clutches of the law, is without funds to caary on his fight for life and liberty. He maintained his innocence throughout all the investigations and the trials. He was shot three times in the custody of the sheriff of the Jefferson County jail by Attorney Dent Williams, the brother of the slain girl, with no member of his race present, no persons except the attaches of the sheriff's office, the sheriff himself, Assistant Solicitor J. McK. Long, the members of the Williams family, and a member of the Woods family. When the smoke had cleared away, and Peterson could speak in answer to the questioning of Assistant Solicitor Long, he denied his guilt or any knowledge of the crime, and told the officers and those present that they were killing an innocent man.

Peterson maintains a fine reputation in his neighborhood, and white witnesses took the stand in his defense, swearing that they saw him on the day and on or about the time the crime is alleged to have been committed.

This little human being, one of God's creations, wrapped in black skin, is asking the sympathy and consideration of the public that he may be given a fair chance for life and freedom. He needs money to perfect his defense in making proper representations to the Supreme Court. Peterson, together with his friends, will thank the public and all who may feel to aid him in this his life struggle.

MAN AND WOMAN ARE FOUND DEAD

Gadsden Police Are Seeking Negro Highwayman After Double Murder Near There

GADSDEN, Ala., Oct. 24 (AP)—Tom Russell, 50-year-old furniture salesman, and his companion, Miss Thelma Groover, 29, the daughter of a minister, were killed in an abandoned field near here Sunday night and officers Monday night sought a Negro highwayman in the case.

The search switched from a probable "revenge" theory this afternoon to a robbery motive, after officers had traced the ownership of a single barrel shotgun found at the scene to W. D. Jones, who had reported theft of the weapon Sunday night.

A Negro was seen to enter the Jones home shortly after 6 o'clock Sunday night and later emerge carrying the weapon. This witness, authorities said, was the small daughter of William Hudgens, a neighbor of Jones.

During the afternoon the small roadster owned by the firm employing Russell and in which the couple was seen at 7 o'clock Sunday night was found in Birmingham, leading authorities to believe the slayer had driven there and abandoned the machine in a white neighborhood.

Sound of Blows Heard

Frank Dick, who lived 500 yards from where the bodies were found, told officers he heard a single shot about 8 o'clock Sunday night and a moment or two later heard thuds of blows. Dick said a few moments later, a woman said, "Let's go. I'm freezing," and he saw a car drive away.

Russell was shot with a shotgun and his head beaten, and Miss Groover's skull was crushed. The single barrel shotgun, its stock splintered and bloody, was found nearby.

The man apparently had been slain in the road, where authorities now believe he had parked, and his body dragged into the field. Miss Groover apparently was slain in the field. There were signs of a struggle near a pool of blood beside the road.

Last "Date" Traced

Russell left home about 6 o'clock Sunday night, telling his wife he was going after "some cigarettes," and a 15-year-old brother of the girl said he called for her at 6:30.

Half an hour later officers said they were seen in a roadster owned by the furniture company employing Russell.

Officers said Russell and the girl had been meeting each other for several years.

In addition to his wife, three children survive Russell. Miss Groover is survived by her father, the Rev. W. L. Groover, a pastor in East Gadsden, several brothers and a sister.

SURPRISED BURGLAR SLAIN BY OFFICER

Cobb Drills Negro In A. C. L. Store; Three Other Stores Robbed In Night

One negro burglar was killed, and another, alleged to have taken some clothing from Webber Company, Incorporated at Monroe and Perry Streets, was captured early yesterday after four stores three of them in the business district had been entered and robbed.

The negro killed, who had not been identified last night, was shot by Patrolman O. M. Cobb when he attacked the officer with a sledge hammer after being discovered in the A. C. L. store at the foot of Martha Street.

Officers Cobb and Frizzle discovered the negro in the store while making their rounds. Finding a hole in the floor where the burglar had entered, Officer Cobb climbed through the opening and attempted to arrest the burglar. Instead of submitting the negro darted at the officer, sledge hammer in hand. Officer Cobb fired twice and the negro fell to the floor.

As Officer Cobb went to a telephone to call police headquarters the burglar again attempted to attack him. A third shot from Cobb's pistol took the negro's life.

Frank Williams, negro, said to have taken some shoes and shirts from Webber Company, Incorporated, was caught in the business district by Patrolman Nichols.

Other than the A. C. L. Store, burglars entered A. Nachman's store, at Perry Street and Dexter Avenue, where they obtained $50 worth of merchandise; E. A. Farley's Store, 106 Dexter Avenue, where $139 worth of clothing was taken, and the Cinderella Beauty Shop, 106 1-2 Dexter Avenue. From the list the thieves obtained a watch, fountain pen, cosmetics and hair clippers, in all valued at between $30 and $50.

Huntsville Youth Held For Killing Aged Negro

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Nov. 28.—(AP)—Thomas McLemore, 20, today was arrested on a charge of second degree murder in connection with the death of Milton Connally, aged negro who was burned to death several months ago.

The arrest was made after an indictment had been returned by the Madison County grand jury. McLemore also was charged with the theft of $80 missing from the aged negro's house.

The charred body of the negro was found in the ruins of his home. Officers investigating, pursued their quarry on a theory of robbery since the aged negro was known to have had $80 in his possession.

Negro Tried Twice; Again Found Guilty

GREENVILLE, ALA., Nov. 30.—(AP)—A death sentence today faced Dove Ballard, whom the Governor of Michigan refused to release until he was assured the negro would receive a fair trial in Alabama, for the second time following his conviction last night of slaying of Deputy Sheriff Charlie Simms in August, 1931.

The death sentence was recommended by the jury, which returned its verdict at the end of a two-day trial, and sentence will be passed either Friday or Saturday by Judge A. E. Gamble of the Butler Circuit Court.

Ballard's first trial last Spring resulted in a verdict finding him guilty of first degree murder and his punishment was fixed at death. His attorneys, however, won a new trial on an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Deputy Simms was shot to death when he attempted to quell a quarrel between Ballard and the negro's wife. Ballard later was apprehended in Michigan and the Governor of that State sent an investigator to Alabama to determine whether the negro would be given a fair trial before authorizing his extradition.

Leader In Negro Uprising Jailed

Cliff James Handed Over To Sheriff By Officials Of Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 22—(Special)—Cliff James, the negro in whose home the Tallapoosa County uprising of last Monday originated, is being held in the Macon County jail whence he was brought last night by officials of Tuskegee Institute. Tonight he expressed regret that instead of running away he had remained at his home and killed some of the sheriff's deputies who had come to serve an attachment on his mules and cows. He stoutly denied, however, that he was as had been reported, a member of the Sharecroppers Union or affiliated with any sort of organization.

From James's account of the incidents at his home Monday, related tonight in the presence of Sheriff T. A. Riley, of Macon County, he ran from his home before the first shot was fired, was wounded by a shot, and made his way by foot to Tuskegee Institute, arriving there Wednesday night. In his recountal he said he had asked the Institute authorities to accompany him to the jail.

James said that he had bought a farm of 77 acres from W. S. Parker, of Notasulga, in 1924. He said the purchase price was $1,600 and that he owed a balance of $950. Early this year, he said, Mr. Parker asked him for a payment of at least $80. James said he was unable to meet this payment and that Mr. Parker suggested that he give him a note for this amount at the same time telling him to "study on it."

There the matter was left, James said, until Deputy Sheriff Clifford S. Elder arrived at his house Monday morning with an attachment for two mules and two cows, which, the negro insisted, were unencumbered. He admitted arguing with the officer and expressing surprise that Mr. Parker had secured the writ in the light of their previous conversation. While the officer was still there, he said Ned Cobb, one of his negro neighbors, came up and remonstrated with the officer. Thereupon, James declared, Deputy Elder said:

"I'm going back and get some more men and kill you all in a pile."

James did not give a very clear explanation of the large number of negroes the four deputies found in his house when they returned. He said they were acquaintances of his who had been hunting rabbits and so had shotguns. He declared he ran and fell in a ditch when someone shot him.

Threats And Bad Grammar Feature Protests To Miller

Three communications in the form of letters which to all appearances were struck from a multigraph machine reached Gov. Miller yesterday from Birmingham, protesting the clash between Tallapoosa County deputies sheriff and alleged negro communists at Liberty Hill last Monday. Though the communications were supposed to be from "we the undersigned," two of them were not signed at all, and the other bore the signature of John Hanor as secretary of the Green Liberty Baptist Church.

Though it was the levying on two mules by the sheriff's office that apparently precipitated the Liberty Hill clash the letters protest against the seizure of a "mule and cow" as the "last possession" of a tenant farmer. They make demand upon the Governor: "Stop terrorism, evictions, seizures of goods and foreclosures; State relief for poor farmers, tenants and croppers; unemployment relief insurance for all unemployed; right of sharecroppers to organize; release all those arrested; punishment of the murderers of the three starving croppers."

"Murderous Action"

In conclusion, each letter declares that: "We pledge our wholehearted support to the International Labor Defense in its fight for the release of those arrested and for the right of all people to organize themselves and demand the right to live. We pledge to rally all the people to protest against this murderous action."

Telegrams also came from far and wide, bearing on the same subject, one alleging that the policy of Gov. Miller's Government represents "Bourbon slave drivers" and "is to keep negro and white sharecropper-tenant farmers in further starvation and slavery." This message was from the National Committee Unemployed Councils, New York, which it is claimed represents millions of employed and unemployed, and stated in addition: "We hold you responsible for these murders, demand immediate withdrawal deputies, punishment those responsible for murder. Demand stopping foreclosures, evictions and further terrorist attacks negro farmers as steps in spreading terror throughout South. We appeal to white and negro sharecroppers unite in solid ranks to defeat your policy."

"Thugs and Militia"

Somehow the impression seems to have gotten out, that "militia" was involved in the Tallapoosa affair, to judge from a wire forwarded from Philadelphia by Unit 104, Communist Party, which took occasion to speak a word for the "Scottsboro Boys" in their telegram demanding the withdrawal of "thugs and militia" in which they also stated: "We hold you responsible for murder said workers also for further terror against negro and white wokers. We demand immediate release Scottsboro boys."

The Young Communist League of Harlem, in New York, notified the Governor they were pledging their support to "croppers struggle and right to organize." Saul White signed a telegram from Providence, R. I., in which the Communist Party there said: "We demand immediate stoppage of reign of terror against negro sharecroppers and tenants of Tallapoosa; unconditional release of negro sharecroppers tenants arrested; that sheriffs posses who are murdering negroes be immediately disbanded. We demand immediate punishment for murderers and payment of indemnity to families of murdered victims."

Others Protest

Messages of protest likewise came from the International Labor Defense of Atlanta, and the City Committee of Unemployed Councils, at Cleveland, Ohio. From New York, the Cripus Attucks Club wired: "We protest against organized, bloody terror in Tallapoosa County; against sharecroppers and their union. We demand immediate removal of Sheriff Young of Dadeville. We demand release of prisoners and protection of negro sharecroppers. Hold you responsible for all present and future incitement of lynch terror."

A telegram from the Cleveland, Ohio, Division of the National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners—which was signed by Dr. Brounstein, as chairman, and Yetta Land as secretary, said that organization condemned "reign of terror, lynching and organized massacre against the negro workers in the black belt," and called upon the Governor to "issue an order calling off the posse which lays in waiting to take more lives of negro workers."

Messages and letters received were placed in the Governor's files.

Killings-1932

Arizona.

Negro Slays 4 At Army Camp

Private Is Killed By Guard After Fatally Shooting 2 Captains, Their Wives

FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZ., Dec. 29.—(AP)—A negro private ran amuck today with a pistol, slew two United States Army captains and their wives and seriously wounded a lieutenant. The negro himself was shot to death by a guard as he was firing at Lieut. Harvie R. Matthews.

Those killed were Capt. and Mrs. David A. Palmer and Capt. and Mrs. Joseph R. Wessely, and the negro, identified only as Abernathy.

Army post officers said the reason for the shooting had not been ascertained.

Abernathy, they said, started his murderous rampage by shooting and killing Capt. Wessely at the Army gasoline service station, where Abernathy was attendant.

The negro took the officer's car, drove to the captain's home and killed Mrs. Wessely. He then rode to the home of the Palmers and shot them.

Coming outside, Abernathy wounded Lieut. Matthews and then was shot dead himself by the military guard.

Col. R. S. Cox, commanding officer of the 25th Infantry, to which the officers belonged, left Nogales by motor car tonight for Fort Huachuca to direct an investigation. The Colonel was informed of the tragedy by army radio.

His regiment has been concentrated here because of plans of the War Department to abandon Camp Stephen D. Little here and Camp Harry Jones at Douglas, Ariz.

Home addresses of the victims could not be ascertained immediately.

Capt. Palmer, a 42-year-old native of Massachusetts, became a major during the World War as an emergency officer reverting to the grade of captain in 1920. He was a graduate of three service schools—command and staff, infantry and signal corps.

A native of Texas, Capt. Wessely, 56, also a World War emergency officer, likewise having served as a major. He joined the army in 1908, advancing from the private ranks. He was a graduate of the motor transport school of the quartermaster service.

Also a native Texan, Lieut. Matthews, 33, was graduated with honors from the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station, Texas.

Attending the Officers' Training School during the war, he received his first regular commission in 1921 and became a first lieutenant in 1926.

CRAZED SOLDIER ENDS FOUR LIVES

Negro Private Is Killed by Guard After Slaying Two Captains and Their Wives

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz., Dec. 29 (AP)—A Negro private ran amuck Thursday with a pistol, slew two United States army captains and their wives and seriously wounded a lieutenant. The Negro himself was shot to death by a guard as he was firing at Lieut. Harvie R. Matthews.

Those killed were Captain and Mrs. David A. Palmer and Captain and Mrs. Joseph R. Wessely and the Negro, identified only as Abernathy.

Army post officers said the reason for the shooting had not been ascertained.

Aberrathy, they said, started his murderous rampage by shooting and killing Captain Wessely at the army gasoline service station, where Abernathy was attendant.

Investigation to Be Made

The Negro took the officer's car, drove to the captain's home and killed Mrs. Wessely. He then rode to the home of the Palmers and shot them.

Coming outside, Abernathy wounded Lieutenant Matthews and then was shot dead himself by the military guard.

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Wessely Was Texan

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Also a native Texan, Lieutenant Matthews, 33, was graduated with honors from the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical college at College Station, Texas.

Attending the officers' training school during the war, he received his first regular commission in 1921 and became a first lieutenant in 1926.

Crime Without Parallel

This army post has been noted for years as a Mexican border cavalry garrison. Only recently has infantry been located here.

For many years the 10th United States cavalry (Negro) was garrisoned here, and several of its companies were moved to guard encampments along the Arizona-Mexico border during the Mexican revolucion of 1929.

Killings like those of Thursday are not recalled in modern annals of the garrison, officers said.

Slayings have taken place, resulting from quarrels between enlisted men, but in nearly every instance they have occurred away from the post headquarters.

Negro Once Tried As Killer

Post officers, led in a preliminary inquiry by their commander, Lieut. Colonel M. C. Tomlinson, expressed belief that Abernathy either became suddenly deranged and attacked Captain Wessely without rational cause, or had been laboring under some fancied urge for revenge upon commissioned officers.

They believed Captain Wessely scracely had time to suspect an attack before the Negro's first bullet toppled him from his car at the post gasoline station. He had halted to have his machine serviced.

In December, 1930, Abernathy, a sergeant at that time, was released to civil authorities of Coshise county for trial on a manslaughter charge. He was acquitted. The charge grew out of a motor car accident in Douglas, Ariz, in which a man was killed.

Prior to that time, Abernathy had been reported by his superior officers to have maintained a high character rating.

MADDENED NEGRO KILLS 4, IS SLAIN

Two Army Captains and Wives Murdered Before Private Is Killed.

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz., Dec. 29.—(AP)—In a sudden, crazed onslaught, a negro soldier sped about this historic western army camp with a pistol today, slew two captains and their wives and seriously wounded a lieutenant before he was killed by the military guard.

The apparently demented private was shot down by the guard as he was firing at Lieutenant Harvie R. Matthews.

The whole carnage, which took the lives of two officers who were majors in the World War, was over in a few minutes.

Those killed were Captain and Mrs. David A. Palmer and Captain and Mrs. Joseph R. Wessely, and the negro, identified only as Abernathy. Army post officers said the reason for the shooting had not been ascertained.

Abernathy, they said, started his murderous rampage by shooting and killing Captain Wessely at the army gasoline service station, where Abernathy was attendant.

The negro took the officer's car, drove to the captain's home and killed Mrs. Wessely. He then rode to the home of the Palmers and shot them.

Coming outside, Abernathy wounded Lieutenant Matthews and then was shot dead himself by the military guard.

Colonel M. C. Tomlinson, expressed belief that Abernathy either became suddenly deranged and attacked Captain Wessely without rational cause, or had been laboring under some fancied urge for revenge upon commissioned officers.

In December, 1930, Abernathy, a sergeant at that time, was released to civil authorities of Coshise county for trial on a manslaughter charge. He first pleaded guilty and then reversed his plea, receiving a suspended sentence of 11 years' imprisonment for manslaughter in civil court and was given a 10-year sentence.

As a result he lost his sergeant's rating. His demotion, however, was automatic, a post headquarters spokesman said today, and could not be laid as a grievance at the door of any of his superior officers. The slayer's Army record was good.

Cause Of Negro Soldier's Murder Spree Sought In Laboratory Tests

FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZ., Dec. 30.—(AP)—The medical staff of this one-time frontier outpost sought laboratory aid today in an effort to determine the cause of a murderous outburst of an apparently crazed negro private, which brought death to five—four white residents of "officers' row," and the madman himself.

The death-dealing foray of Private James B. Abernathy, Quartermaster's Corps, was halted late yesterday by a bullet from the rifle of a provost guard, after the slaying of the post's assistant quartermaster, a 25th Infantry Company captain, and both their wives, and the wounding of an infantry lieutenant.

Capt. Joseph R. Wessely, 45, of San Antonio, Texas, assistant quartermaster was shot three times by Abernathy when he drove to the post gasoline filling station and asked the negro, stationed here, to service his automobile.

Mrs. Wessely, formerly of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was shot through the heart in the Wessely home a few minutes later, Abernathy having taken the dead officer's automobile to go there.

Next, Capt. David A. Palmer, of Company M, 25th U. S. Infantry, whose home was in Beverly, Mass., and his wife, the former Mary Lowden, of Dedham, Mass., were confronted by the negro in their cottage and shot down without warning.

The two Palmer children, David, 12 and Polly, 10, escaped. The boy pushed his sister into a closet, slammed the door and ran out to spread an alarm. Later the girl crept to a telephone to advise post headquarters her parents were dead.

Abernathy was shot dead next door to the Palmer home as he attempted to continue his slaying orgy. Corp. Peter Hardley, negro, of the provost guard sent a steel-jacketed Army rifle bullet through Abernathy's body as the raging negro stood over the prostrate form of First Lieut. Harvie R. Matthews, assigned to the command of Company K, 25th Infantry. Matthews was shot twice in the legs, but will recover.

An autopsy today did not enable the medical staff to reach definite conclusions, and the stomach was to be sent to the State pathological laboratory, in a further effort to determine what caused the negro's sudden lust for blood. His apparent determination to wipe out the white commissioned personnel of the post was ascribed by his superiors to as yet unexplained "temporary insanity."

The charge grew out of a motor car accident in Douglas, Ariz., in which a man was killed.

Abernathy was involved in an automobile accident in Douglas, Ariz., on Christmas Day, 1929, in which a man was killed. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter charge in civil court and was given a 10-year sentence.

For many years Fort Huachuca has been a famous cavalry post, with historic frontier background.

At present scarcely more than 50 white persons are stationed here. The enlisted troops are negroes, augmented by the last of the old Apache frontier army scouts.

Killings-1932

NEGRO MURDERER CAUGHT BY POLICE

Escaped Convict Loots Store And Kills Clerk Before Being Wounded

4-16-32

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., April 15.—(AP)—Shortly after killing C. H. Atwood, 22, employe, during the holdup of a chain grocery store here today, Woodie Williams, negro, two-gun robber and escaped convict, was wounded and captured by officers.

He was identified as the slayer by L. D. Manney, manager of the store, and M. L. Allison, an employe. The two pistols used in the robbery and the loot of about $200, were found on the negro by police.

Five officers, working on a "hunch," went to a house frequented by police characters to question the residents about the robbery. As they arrived, the negro fled out the rear door. They opened fire and one of the bullets struck him in the leg. They said his wound was not serious.

The negro, who escaped from one of the State prison farms several weeks after beginning his sentence in March, 1930, was sentenced from Jefferson County to nine years on a charge of burglary and grand larceny.

Imprisoning Manney and Allison in a large refrigerator, the negro leisurely rifled the cash registers after shooting Atwood, who walked to the front of the store when he heard the disturbance.

FIRE ON NEGRO LABORERS

Two Wounded by Ambush Fire Near Harrisburg

9-23-32

HARRISBURG, Ark., Sept. 22.—Continuing threats which were made last week, unidentified parties fired from ambush at negroes working on the Heeb farms, west of here, last night as they were leaving the fields for the day. Of the seven negroes fired upon, two were hit by shotgun fire.

Reports are that the waylayers were using both pistols and shotguns and it is believed that the majority of the waylayers were content with merely attempting to scare the negroes, but bird shot hit Robert Shelton, 35, and Feben Eskridge, 28.

No colored laborers reported to any of the rice farms now harvesting today.

SHOT TO MELON PATCH KILLS ARKANSAS BOY

LAVACA, Ark., July 21.—(AP)—Winston Smithson, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Smithson, near here, was found shot to death today in a water melon patch at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Webb, near here.

A coroner's jury said Smithson died as a result of gunshot wounds inflicted by W. T. Spencer, father of Mrs. Webb. Spencer was held to the grand jury for further investigation.

He said he heard someone in the melon patch last night and fired a shotgun in the direction of the sound. He did not know, he said, that he had hit anyone.

Florida.

Killings-1932

NEGRO HELD JUSTIFIED IN KILLING FLORIDAN

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 21.—(AP)—A coroner's jury today held that Henderson Tyler, aged negro, apparently was justified in killing Robert Harvey Prevatt, 32-year-old white man, earlier in the day.

The jury heard testimony of Tyler and several other witnesses that Prevatt came to the negro's home and demanded entrance and that the negro shot and killed him with a shotgun when he forced his way into the house despite the negro's protests. The witnesses said Prevatt apparently had the wrong house.

Killings-1932

"They Are On Trial"

During the past year some eight or ten Negro firemen on the Illinois Central System in Mississippi and Tennessee have been murdered in cold blood by thugs, and the finger of suspicion points to former white employees of the company, who, because of the economic depression, were laid off, most of them were murdered after having received in the U. S. Mail, letters, signed "Zulius," warning them not to go out on their runs. One of the most cowardly, dastardly and cold blooded was the killing of Clarence Booker of this city near Bolivar, Tenn., a few weeks ago. It is passing strange to this editor how Negro firemen can be shot in their cabs and not a single stray shot from the gun loaded with slugs or bukshot ever has struck the white engineer in the same cab. 6-30-32

The Illinois Central Railroad does not stand for this reign of terror and it has offered a $5,000 reward for the arrest of the killers. Jackson, Tenn.

The Negro worker has always been loyal to the Company when other men tried to destroy its property and tie up its traffic by lawless acts the Negro could be depended upon when others failed. That was demonstrated here in Jackson, Tenn.

The best white people of the South do not stand for these hellish fiends clothed in the likeness of men and their program of murder. Recently the Jackson (Miss.) Daily *News*, one of the most influential papers in the South, had this to say on its editorial page:

"On Trial."

"Authorities in the counties of Mississippi, where Negro firemen have been assassinated in recent months, may not realize it, but they are on trial before the bar of public opinion.

"More than that, the civilization of the white man is on trial in Mississippi, and if the officials fail to find and have indicted these assassins, they should resign their positions.

"The growth of crime is similar to that of a weed, and the mere trimming of its branches will not destroy its activity nor lessen its longevity. In many ways it is given opportunity to thrive by cultivating the roots, even though they are covered heavily with the dirt of selfish power and racial prejudice which enables them to become watered with the blood of innocent citizens. Let us not forget that:

"The laws of changeless justice bind
Oppressor with oppressed;
And close as sin and suffering joined
We march to fate abreast.'

'Nothing is ever gained by closing our eyes to unpleasant facts. Within recent months eight Negro firemen on railway systems in this state have been shot down in cold blood. Their only offense was that they were holding jobs that white men evidently wanted. They were peaceful, hard-working, law-abiding Negroes, entitled to the full protection of the law in their God-given right to earn their living in the sweat of their faces.

"These Negroes were our workers. They exercised but few of the rights of citizenship. They did not vote they took no active part in civic affairs; they did not lobby in legislative halls, and they did not make themselves vocal about the prevalent depression. On the contrary, they went humbly and faithfully to their daily tasks, offering no protest when their wages were slashed or working hours reduced. And yet, because white men coveted their jobs they had to die.

"The *Daily News* does not believe that public sentiment in Mississippi will stand for an orgy of gangsterism and racketeering similar to that which has disgraced Chicago, New York, and other large cties; that our citizens will view with complacency their killing of human beings, no matter how black their skins, when no semblance of an offense has been committed.

"To tolerate such a condition of affairs means that our own children will grow up without respect for law and order. Worse still, it means that we are heading for anarchy. An overwhelming majority of the Negroes of Mississippi are peaceful and law abiding. They are in nowise responsible for existing economic conditions. If the world is in a mess, the white man must assume full blame therefor, and the Negroes merely rank among the sufferers.

"The least we can give the black race is a square deal That is all its members have asked, and nothing else will suffice. It is high time for the Government under the dome of the Capitol to take cogniance of these killings and offer substantial rewards for the arrest and conviction of the assassins."

The States of Mississippi and Tennessee should resolve to bring these murderers to justice if it takes every dollar in the state treasuries. In Canada, the Royal Police would have caught them long ago and in England the perpetrators world have died on the gallows without much ceremony. If the states can't protect Negro firemen in their rights to life, liberty and the right to earn a living then the Federal Government should move to do so. Judge Holmes and Judge Anderson can find ways to do it.

N. Y. SUN

SEP 28 1932

Rise in Homicides.

Reporting the total of 586 victims of homicides in New York last year, the Health Department describes the marked rise in the death rate of this cause as a "disturbing fact." Six of the ten largest cities in the United States have a higher homicide rate than New York has, but "none of the other cities shows the steady rise that has occurred in New York."

The city's population last year was 24 per cent higher than in 1920; the number of deaths from homicides was 80 per cent higher. The rise in the homicide rate has been sharp since 1928. In that year the rate for the city was 6.68; last year it touched 8.27. In Chicago the rate dropped in that period from 15.77 to 14.14; in Pittsburgh it fell from 13.82 in 1927 to 8.62 last year.

One of the factors that has forced up New York's homicide rate is the sharp increase in deaths from this cause among the colored population, the rate here rising in the last eleven years from 22 in 100,000 to 39. In that period the homicide rate among the white population went from 5 to 7 in 100,000. The colored population in the city has more than doubled since 1920.

Men between the ages of 25 and 29 form the largest single group of homicide victims; those between The number of deaths decreases after 49. Thus, last year there were 116 victims of homicides between 25 and 29, 73 victims between 35 and 39 and 30 victims between 55 and 64. For all ages the males outnumber female victims almost five to one.

Citing the cosmopolitan character of New York's population as compared with other American cities, New Yorkers may be inclined to regard with too much complacency the city's homicide rate, which is lower than that of Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Nobody who notes the recent rise in New York's rate, however, will dare to make a guess as to what figure it may touch in the next ten years.

HIRED ASSASSINS

At last the persons responsible for the shooting of several firemen on the Illinois Central Railroad have been captured.

It proves, as everyone thought, to be the work of a gang of unemployed railroad men who take their assumed right of precedence seriously.

Their purpose of frightening the Negro firemen off the job in order that they might be employed had no chance to succeed, and there are many better ways of getting employment than by killing those whose places they desire to fill.

Reporter 9-10-32

It now develops that a conspiracy was formed to place so much on the heads of Negro firemen and by this means kill a few and frighten the others off the job.

Birmingham,

It is reported that five men have been arrested, all white men, who were the tools of the conspirators and who were doing this nasty work for compensation ranging in value from $25.00 to $125.00.

Ala.

There can be little doubt that this matter will be thoroughly investigated and the responsible parties rounded up.

It reminds us of the days when the Colonists had to carry their muskets to the field to protect themselves from the raids of wild men.

But there is the saddening thought that, being in the midst of a very high civilization the measure of whose progress is determined by the absence of wild men, this thing could happen on no better pretext and with no higher controlling motive. The redeeming aspect is that they have been hunted down and jailed. To make the impression that no Negro is safe at work as long as he has a job that a white man wants is unutterably bad for both the Negro and the white man. Perhaps, it may be easily recalled by some that in certain communities a good horse and buggy, a nice, modern home, an automobile or any show of prosperity constituted the basis for Ku Kluxic threats against industrious colored people; but that ought to be gone by now. The white man ought to get over that pevishness and concede the Negro the privilege to work for a living and enjoy unmolestedly the fruits of his labors.

The world is big and full and there is no need to let one's sense of human justice be eaten up with unprovoked prejudicial and green envy.

It does not follow that, because the Anglo-Saxon race is great in its achievements throughout the world, the badge of superiority is white. Nor are the evidences of superiority admissable on any other basis than justice and fair play.

A high sense of justice goes with all superiority that is worthy of the name, and, while we mean no general indictment on account of the meanness of a few men we do mean that this type of conduct is rooted in a traditional conception that should have no place in the minds of a superior people.

The hired assassin is the worst yet except that those who hire are a little worse for their cowardice.

Killings - 1932

NEGRO IS WOUNDED BY DEKALB FARMER

Kendrick "Buddy" Johnson, a negro, was seriously wounded about noon Tuesday when he was shot by Daniel A. Reagin, a DeKalb county farmer, according to reports. Reagin offered to give himself up to Sheriff Lowry, of Fulton county, but was released to give himself up to the sheriff of Henry county it was said.

Johnson was brought to Grady hospital, where attaches said he had an even chance to survive. Reagin saiding he and two negroes stopped to help Johnson and another negro fix a tire in Henry county, near Brushy Knob and that Johnson drew a gun on him. He shot in self-defense, he asserted.

Officer Shoots Negro In Hand-to-Hand Fight

Luther Battle, negro, of 504 Fraser street, was probably fatally wounded Sunday night by Leo Nahlik, supernumerary policeman, in a raid at Hammock place, off Fraser street, according to reports. Nahlik, with other officers, were proceeding down the alley when the negro ran out shooting a pistol, it was said. He fired at the policeman several times, and the shots were returned, but no one was struck.

Nahlik overtook the negro and grappled with him, losing his gun in the scuffle. The negro grasped the weapon, but Nahlik turned the gun in the negro's hand and fired it under Battle's left arm. The bullet penetrated his side and shoulder. At Grady hospital, where he was taken, it was said that he probably would die. Nahlik was severely cut and bruised.

Negro Resists Arrest And Is Shot to Death

A negro man, known to police as "Baby," wanted on a charge of larceny of an automobile, was shot to death Monday night by Supernumerary Patrolman J. W. Coty, following a fight at the corner of Frazer and Crumley streets, according to police reports. The negro, when informed that Coty and Officer C. W. Mauldin had come to arrest him, drew a knife and attacked the two men. In the fight which followed the clothes of the policemen were almost torn off. Both were slightly cut and badly bruised. "Baby" ran into a doorway and attacked Coty as the latter advanced. He was shot twice in the stomach and died at Grady hospital.

Negro Shot by Officer Succumbs to Wounds

Luther Battle, a negro, of 504 Fraser street, who engaged in a gun battle with raiding officers late Sunday night, died Monday afternoon of wound inflicted by Supernumerary Leo Nahlik.

According to police reports, Nahlik found Battle in an alley off Fraser street Saturday night shooting at random. The officer ordered the negro to cease shooting, and after the negro had fired point-blank at him, Nahlik returned the fire. In the subsequent hand-to-hand struggle the negro was fatally wounded.

NEGRO IS WANTED IN BALDWIN CASE

Jett Reeves Admits Son Sho Simmerson From Ambush t Rob Him, Police Say

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Sept. 20 Jimmy Reeves, 27-year-old Baldwin county Negro, was being sought Tuesday night in connection with ambush shooting of Ralph Simmerson, Milledgeville automobile dealer Saturday night on a highway five miles from this city.

Jett Reeves, father of the wanted man, was arrested Tuesday afternoon and told officers his son had committed the crime, Deputy Sheriff R. H. Lawrence said Tuesday night. The motive was robbery, the officer quoted Reeves as saying.

Officers trailed the younger Negro to Wilkinson county where he spent early Sunday morning and Monday with relatives, and then left.

Believing Reeves to still be in this section officers Tuesday night sent out a description of the man. He was described as being five feet, seven and a half inches in height weighing 170 pounds; wearing size nine and a half or 10 shoes, that, when last seen, had the soles tied to the top of the shoes by copper wire; wearing overalls and a faded blue shirt.

Meanwhile Simmerson remained in a serious condition in the Milledgeville City hospital.

NEGRO ARRESTED IN BALDWIN CASE

Jimmy Reeves, Held in Carolina, Said to Have Admitted Shooting Simmerson

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Sept. 29. Jimmy Reeves, young Baldwin county Negro, sought in connection with the ambush shooting of Ralph Simmerson, prominent Milledgeville young man, and Miss Fleta Woss, well-known young woman of this city on the night of Sept. 12, was arrested in Williamsburg county, S. C., Thursday.

Baldwin county officers said Thursday night that the sheriff at Georgetown, S. C., had told them over telephone that Reeves had confessed the shooting. Locau authorities planned to leave Friday for Georgetown to return the Negro.

Others Held

Meanwhile, Jet Reeves, father of Jimmy; Orange Wiggins and Ben Chambers, all Negroes, were being held in the Baldwin county jail here as material witnesses.

Simmerson and Miss Ross were reported shot from the side of a highway when the former stopped his car to investigate a lighted flashlight which he came upon in the roadway.

Miss Ross was only slightly wounded, but Simmerson's condition was grave for several days. Thursday night he was reported recovering in the Milledgeville City hospital.

NEGRO MAN ARRESTED FOR SHOOTING COUPLE

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Sept. 30. (AP)—Jimmy Reeves, young Baldwin county negro, sought in connection with the ambush shooting of Ralph Simmerson, prominent Milledgeville young man, and Miss Fleta Ross, well-known young woman of this city, on the night of September 17, was arrested in Williamsburg county, South Carolina, Thursday.

Baldwin county officers said that the sheriff at Georgetown, S. C., had told them over telephone that Reeves had confessed the shooting. Local authorities planned to leave Friday for Georgetown to return Reeves.

Meanwhile, Jett Reeves, father of Jimmy Reeves; Orange Wiggins and Ben Chambers, all negroes, were being held in the Baldwin county jail here as material witnesses.

Simmerson and Miss Ross were reported shot from the side of a highway when the former stopped his car to investigate a lighted flashlight which he came upon in the highway.

Miss Ross was only slightly wounded, but Simmerson's condition remained grave for several days. He is now reported recovering in the Milledgeville city hospital.

NEGRO CONFESSES WOUNDING COUPLE

Jimmie Lee Reeves Says Milledgeville Man's Car Was Taken For Liquor Runner's

Jimmie Lee Reeves, Baldwin county Negro, said here Saturday he fired the shot which wounded Ralph Simmerson and Miss Fleta Ross near Milledgeville on the night of Sept. 17 when he mistook their automobile for that of a whisky runner.

Reeves was brought to the Bibb county jail by Sheriff W. J. Haynie of Baldwin county from Williamsburg, S. C., where he was arrested several days ago.

The shooting occurred three miles beyond Milledgeville on the Toomsboro road. Mr. Simmerson and Miss Ross, both residents of Milledgeville, had been out riding and were returning to their home. Mr. Simmerson is reported in a critical condition while Miss Ross' wound was not serious, it was said.

Planned to Get Liquor

Reeves said he had overheard Henry Taylor, Negro, say that night that he planned to "go out the river road with a load of whisky."

"I wanted the liquor so I went out to spot him," his confession states. "I took Mr. Simmerson's car for Henry Taylor's car. I laid my flashlight down in the road, stopped the car, and I thought sure it was Henry Taylor. I was not up for murdering anybody. I just wanted to stop this fellow and get the liquor. I didn't know how much he was going to have. I didn't shoot to kill anyone at all. I only shot to scare Henry Taylor. If I had known there was a white gentleman and white lady in this car I never would have shot. I meant to shoot over the car."

Reeves said it was a moonlight night, but could not see the automobile well enough to distinguish it from the Taylor car. He was lying in the grass some 10 or 12 feet from the car when he fired the shot gun, he said.

Trailed to Home

Simmerson stopped the automobile when he saw the lighted flashlight in the road. He said he thought someone had broken and stopped to pick it up. He had just stepped from the car when the Negro shot.

Reeves dashed away from the scene. Sheriff Haynie and deputies placed track dogs on the trail and it led to the Negro's residence. His father told officers he had committed the crime and had already left for South Carolina, where relatives resided.

Sheriff Haynie dispatched a message to officers there and Reeves was arrested. The Negro confessed but Saturday was the first complete statement he had made.

Sheriff Haynie said he would continue the investigation to ascertain if Reeves had any other motive.

Murder Charge Filed In Shooting of Negro

Murder charges against W. H. Rauschenberg, supernumary policeman, filed by a coroner's jury Monday, will be taken up by the Fulton county grand jury probably today in an investigation of the fatal shooting on October 8 of Willie Wright, alias O. C. Major, in the John M. Smith used car lot on West Three street. The policeman had said in his report that while employed as a watchman he shot when he saw the negro stealing parts from automobiles.

Following action by the coroner's jury, Rauschenberg was held in Fulton tower without bond. The belated hearing of the case by the jury was lengthy.

Regarding whether the officer was justified in the shooting, Coroner Paul Donehoo said "the policeman might be justified in taking life if his own was in imminent danger. . . . In this case the value of the goods being stolen was too low to classify the theft as a felony."

It was the second shooting in which Rauschenberg has figured in recent weeks. He killed a negro disturber on Fraser street several weeks ago when the latter, according to the policeman, took the officer's pistol away from him.

Negro Slain.

HOUSTON, Oct. 21.—(AP)—Joseph Lab[illegible], negro, was shot to death today by two detectives who sought to arrest him for an ax attack on two white women who refused him money. Neither of the women was seriously hurt. The detectives said Mathew attacked them with a sickle.

THE GILMORE TRAGEDY

Above all days, that of Thanksgiving should cause every heart to be full of gratefulness and less inclined to do injury to a fellow man. This was not so last Thanksgiving day when the white man, John L. Gill, shot down young Lawrence Gilmore, and, too, in the back, for a slight infringement of the law. Gilmore, a boy in his teens, was accused of entering the fair grounds through a back fence in order to witness the automobile races. It is stated that others did the same thing, even several white boys and men. Gill, who was doing special duty as an officer, directed his attention to Gilmore who ran. From evidence he was shot in the back by a pistol in the hand of Gill, which caused instant death. From the evidence submitted it appears that the shooting was deliberate, not in the defense of self, nor justified by the slight law infringement. It was just an instance of a little brief authority with only a poor Negro in question. Gill was selected to assist in maintaining order during the races and preventing any one entering without a ticket. He had on the uniform of an enlisted man. As to his enlistment, a ques-

tion arose. Even if he is enlisted, it seems that it would be contrary to military regulations for him to wear his uniform when performing duty other than strictly military. It is rather prevalent for men of this type to act as this one did, and generally with the belief that any act committed will be approved. This has been true in many cases. But in this an example should be made. Men sworn in to do special duty should understand, as well as regular officers, that life is precious and should not be taken unless in self-defense or the seriousness of the situation warrants it. In this respect good judgment is rarely shown when the offender's face is dark. In this case Gill can not successfully prove that his act was committed in self-defense. The only weapon found on Gilmore was a small knife and it was in his pocket. It is not known what defense Gill will make as no statement has been submitted by him or his attorneys, except the claim that he is favorable to the Negro and mentioned the fact that he protected a colored man in Darien while on duty with his company. This was not a voluntary act. He did it in the course of his duty along with others. The tragedy is regretted and we feel sorry for the accused, but he should be punished in some manner for the taking of this young life. An outstanding feature of the case in the police court was the appearance of the young attorney, W. H. Hopkins, who represented the family of the deceased. He handled his part in a manner that elicited commendation and easily proved his ability as a lawyer. He succeeded in having the defendant bound over for action by the grand jury, and in the event of a true bill, he will be associated with the solicitor-general in the prosecution of the case. This is young Hopkins' first major case and it will be watched with keen interest by his friends.

Negroes Held In Double Slaying

12-12-32

NEWTON, GA., Dec. 12.—(AP)—Five negroes were held here today for questioning in connection with the slaying of an officer and a special deputy who went to raid a gambling game yesterday, while Sheriff R. J. Griffin led a posse of about 75 men in search of two others.

All the negroes held denied they had any connection with the shooting, officers said.

They added they believed the two men still sought were the actual killers. If the men are caught they will be taken to jail in Albany for safekeeping on account of the tensity of feeling here.

Copeland Jarvis, peace officer, and Bill Long, farmer, whom he deputized for the raid, were the men slain.

Tom Barfield, Baker County farmer, reported the gambling game to Jarvis. He said there were about 15 men in the group and that they were creating a disturbance. He ordered them to disperse but they refused, he said, and threatened him with pistols.

The farmer drove to Jarvis's home and reported the affair. Jarvis deputized Long and drove to the point where the negroes were congregated.

Barfield followed only a few minutes behind, but reported that when he arrived he found both Jarvis and Long dead in Jarvis's car. Both bodies bore numerous bullet wounds. Jarvis's gun, found beside him, had been fired seven times.

None of the negroes was in sight when he arrived, Barfield said.

Slayers of Officers Believed Surrounded

12-13-32

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., Dec. 13.—Search for three negroes, wanted for killing Copeland Jarvis and Bill Long, Baker county officers, was still concentrated in vast swamps of Flint and Chattahoochee rivers in the southwest corner of Georgia today.

Sheriff W. J. Catledge received a telephone call late today from Sheriff R. J. Griffin, of Newton, who was in Chattahoochee, Fla., and calling for assistance, saying he thought the men were surrounded.

Friday, December 16, 1932

ANGRY MOB HUNTS NEGRO MURDERERS

SO. GEORGIA FARMERS SEARCH HERE FOR KILLERS OF TWO WHITE MEN.

An angry mob of South Georgia farmers were searching this vicinity Monday and Tuesday for two negroes wanted in Baker county, Georgia, for killing Copeland Jarvis and Bill Long, Baker county white men. The search started following the killing of the men Sunday afternoon near Newton, Ga.

As some of the men gave it, the negroes were first charged with attacking a white man one day last week and gouging him with the muzzle of their pistols. He had been beaten in the face but not seriously hurt. The next day, he took out a warrant for their arrest.

A bailiff and another white man went to the "quarter" where the negroes lived to arrest them, and meeting them in the road, stopped the car to get out. Before they had a chance to get out of the car, several negroes came out to the car and two of them opened fire from the rear of the car, killing both men instantly. The farmer had been shot twice in the head, and the bailiff had two wounds in the back and six shots in his head, all from the rear.

The two negroes had an old car in the vicinity and left immediately. They were traced to Bainbridge and thence into the Flint River swamp where they abandoned the car. It was learned that they crossed the Flint at Hutchinson's Ferry, telling there that they were going to Apalachicola.

Sheriff R. J. Griffin, of Newton, was in Chattahoochee Monday and advised Sheriff W. J. Catledge of Bainbridge, that he had the two negroes cornered near here and asked for help. Nothing further was heard from him until he called up Newton from the Shepard Hotel here, and it appears that he was mistaken about his men.

A report came to the men here Tuesday night that the wanted pair had been seen at Hardaway and were said to have walked down the A. N. Railroad tracks early Tuesday morning. The search was taken up there but no further trace was found of the negroes. The men returned to their homes Tuesday night and no more has been heard from them.

Killings-1932

Russell Posts Reward For Slayer of Negro

AMERICUS, Ga., Jan. 5.—The posting of a $100 reward by Governor Russell Tuesday for the arrest and conviction of the slayer of Burke Smith, prominent negro merchant and storekeeper, lent new interest to the case today.

Burke, who had a number of churches in Sumter county circuit, was killed in his store here December 19 while waiting upon a stranger. The stranger had asked for some tobacco and some meat. Two shots killed the minister.

Americus police said they were hunting a local negro as the slayer. The suspect disappeared immediately after the shooting.

ROBERSON DENIED CHANGE OF VENUE

Court Begins Selection of Jury to Try Negro

JUDGE SMITH PRESIDING

DOUGLAS, Ga., Jan. 18.—Judge W. R. Smith of the Alapaha circuit, presiding for Judge M. D. Dickerson, today overruled a motion to change the venue in the case of Alonzo Roberson, Negro, charged with murder for killing Henry Nettles, a white man, on Aug. 19 last year, ordered the case to trial; and the court late this afternoon began selecting a jury.

Most of the day was taken up putting in evidence on the motion to change the venue on the theory that the defendant could not get a fair trial in Coffee county. After the motion was overruled, counsel for the defendant made a motion for continuance in order to take the judge's ruling on the motion to change the venue to the supreme court, stating that the stenographer had not had time to write out the record of the evidence on the motion, but Judge Smith overruled this motion and ordered the case to trial.

The defendant was tried at the last October term of Coffee Superior court and was convicted and sentenced by Judge Dickerson to be electrocuted, but later was granted a new trial on the ground that one of the jurors was related to the prosecutor within the ninth degree.

The jury was called back to try the case on the 26th of December but was continued on account of the death of a relative of the leading counsel for the defendant.

It is contended that the defendant killed Henry Nettles for robbery. A large crowd gathered around the jail shortly after the defendant was arrested and the sheriff hurriedly moved him to another jail and has kept him in other jails most of the time since the killing occurred.

ATTACK HURTS FATAL TO NEGRO AT VALDOSTA

VALDOSTA, Ga., Jan. 21.—(AP)—Joe McKinnon, a negro, died from injuries received when assailants attacked him at his home near Mineola late Tuesday night. Sheriff J. L. Spive said he learned the negro was called from his home and struck on the head. Coroner J. P. Ulmer is holding an inquest.

2 NEGROES JAILED IN BRUTAL KILLING OF FRANK ADAIR, 45

Witness To Downtown Slaying Gives Gunman's Name To Police; $250 Taken by Bandits.

Members of the homicide squad late Monday night were in possession of the name of one of the two negro bandits who shortly before noon shot and fatally wounded Frank Adair, 45, of 412 Boulevard, N. E., in a holdup at Ellis and Butler streets.

Two negroes, both minutely answering the description of the gunmen who killed Adair, were under arrest.

Detectives, however, refused to divulge the names of the prisoners, explaining that three negroes living in the neighborhood bore the same name as that given to them by an informant who witnessed the holdup and shooting. Arrest of the slayers, detectives said, appeared certain even if the two being held should prove not to be those involved in the murder.

Adair died shortly before 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at Grady hospital. He was conscious up to within a few minutes of his death, and gave police a detailed account of the holdup. Adair, a collector for the Rankin-Whitten Company, real estate operators, was robbed of $250 while he was sitting in his automobile and while at least seven eye-witnesses looked on. After he had turned over the money, one of the bandits deliberately fired at him, the bullet penetrating his abdomen.

A negro woman who witnessed the shooting told officers she knew the negro who fired the shot. She gave his name and other witnesses gave the following descriptions of the gunmen:

One was a black negro, 6 feet, 1 inch in height, weighing about 185 pounds, wearing blue overalls, black horn-rimmed glasses and a gray cap.

The other was 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighing about 165 pounds. He wore blue overalls, with a brown sweater tucked into the trousers, and a brown hat. This negro was light in complexion, the witnesses said.

Witnesses said the negro who shot Adair did so either in anger or to prevent subsequent pursuit or identification by the victim.

Another Suspect Jailed.

Suspected of more than 100 robberies in Atlanta within the last year, an 18-year-old negro boy, James Brown, alias "Buster Allen," was arrested Monday by Patrolmen W. S. Scott and Charley Preston and lodged in the police station on a charge of suspicion. Brown, according to detectives, was indicted on a robbery charge last year but escaped from the station before being brought to trial. He was turned over to Detectives W. J. Anderson and S. D. Vaughn for questioning.

Slugged when he put up a fight, George Henson, 42, of 152 Rawson street, was carried to Grady hospital after being robbed and beaten by two white bandits Monday night. Henson said the two men robbed him of $11 in cash. He received several lacerations on the head, it was said. The holdup took place at Spring and Fair streets.

WHITE WOMAN FACES TRIAL FOR MURDER AFTER ACCUSING NEGROES

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 4.—With the merging last month of Campbell and Fulton counties the trial of Mrs. Romie C. Carran, charged with the murder of her husband, Charles M. Carran, Jacksonville accountant, near Fairburn, Ga., last September, was set for February 9 in Fulton Superior Court before Judge Virlyn B. Moore.

While Mrs. Carran was indicted by the Campbell County grand jury of the Stone Mountain Circuit, the merger of Fulton and Campbell counties on January 1, resulted in the scene of the trial being shifted to Atlanta.

Last September, fox hunters discovered the body of the slain accountant in Wilson's woods, 10 miles from Fairburn, while a few feet away Mrs. Carran was found with her hands bound behind her and a gag lying nearby. Upon being questioned by authorities she stolidly stuck to the story that two Negroes, after beating her husband to death and robbing him, relieved her of $200 in cash. However, after a severe grilling of more than 36 hours, administered by Campbell County police officers, several discrepancies were discovered in her story following which she was ordered held by a coroner's verdict and charged with murder. From a description given by Mrs. Carran of the alleged slayers who committed the crime, six Negroes were detained for questioning, but were later released after each had presented a perfect alibi. It was later learned that a white man was seen riding in an automobile with Mrs. Carran near the spot of the murder prior to the day that her husband's body was discovered. After checking on the latter report information revealed that the man seen in the automobile with Mrs. Carran was a former sweetheart. According to police authorities Mrs. Carran admitted that the man seen in her company was "Bud" James, an old acquaintance of hers. Immediately a wholesale searching party, led by Campbell County officers, was formed to capture the missing accomplice, who, up to now, is yet at large.

TWO NEGROES HELD IN SWAMP MURDER

WAYCROSS, Ga., Feb. 20.—(AP)—Two negroes, W. Johnson and S. J. Parker, were arrested here Sunday as suspects in connection with the murder of J. G. Shropsher, at Apopka, Fla. Local authorities were informed the crime had been committed in a swamp near Apopka Friday night.

The two negroes were here Saturday in an automobile answering the description of one reported stolen from Shropsher's filling station at Apopka.

White Farmer Must Die For Killing of Negroes

ATLANTA, Ga.—Anthony Williams, a white farmer from Burke county, must die for the killing of two Negroes, a man and his wife, according to a decision handed down by the State Supreme Court on Jan 16

BENTON ACCUSED IN KILLING CASE

Savannah Man Held on Manslaughter Charge After Striking Negro Woman

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 21 (AP)—F. D. Benton, 38, was held for superior court Monday on a charge of manslaughter following preliminary hearing here in connection with the death of Mary Walker, Negro woman.

Robert Tuten, 23, also has been held since the woman died Saturday night, but he was freed after the hearing.

Benton surrendered to county police Saturday night after bringing the body here.

Benton was quoted by the officers to whom he surrendered as saying the woman and a companion, Marie Anderson, stood in the road cursing him after he had ordered them off his place on the Louisville road. He said he struck her in the back with a stick.

Benton said Mary Walker had a knife and Marie Anderson a stick. He said Mary Walker grabbed his shirt and raised her free hand but he did not know whether she had a knife in the hand.

NEGRO AUTOIST KILLED IN MYSTERY ATTACK

VALDOSTA, Ga., March 20.—Will Preston, colored, was killed and his brother, Jack Preston, badly injured, when an automobile in which they were riding was fired upon by occupants of another car last night near Melrose, south of this city.

According to the sheriff's office the car in which the Prestons and Will Bell, another negro, were riding, had crossed the Florida line when a car containing several white men came up behind and opened fire. The car was riddled with buckshot and when two of the tires were shot out the auto turned over.

The two negroes who escaped with their lives declare they have no idea who the men were who fired at the car, as not a word was spoken before the shooting, and the attacking car continued on as the shots were fired broadside.

NEGRO TO TRIAL TODAY FOR FOSTER SLAYING

Richard Morris, negro, charged with the murder of F. C. "Red" Foster, city detective, during a holdup on March 16, is slated to go on trial for his life in Fulton superior court before Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy today, after postponement of the case Monday. The case was set over Monday due to the illness of Jesse B. Simmons, one of the attorneys for the defense. Two other negroes, Mose White and Richard Sims, have already been convicted of the murder and have been sentenced to be executed on May 12.

THIRD NEGRO MUST DIE FOR DEATH OF FOSTER

The third young negro to face a jury in the slaying of Detective Frank C. (Red) Foster Friday met the same fate as was decreed for those previously placed on trial when a jury found Richard Morris guilty of murder and sentenced him to death in the electric chair. Judge E. E. Pomeroy set May 12 as the date for the execution.

Richard Sims and Mose White, the two negroes previously convicted also are under sentence to be executed on May 12.

Seeks New Trial.

A new trial motion for Richard Morris, convicted of the murder of Detective Frank C. (Red) Foster and sentenced to death, was filed Saturday by his attorney, Jesse Simmons. Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy set the motion for a hearing on May 21. Richard Sims and Mose White also are under death sentence for Foster's murder during the robbery of the Boulevard Delicatessen.

NEGRO WOMAN HELD IN FINDING OF BODY

AUGUSTA, May 2.—(AP)—Police Monday questioned a negro woman whose name they gave as Mattie Abney, also known as Hattie Sweat, in their investigation of the finding of a dismembered body here.

They expressed the belief the body might be that of Ruth Burns, negro school teacher, missing for about three weeks.

The lower limbs of the body, the officers said, were found in the Abney woman's possession Sunday night. The torso, head and arms were found on a canal bank Monday morning.

Negro To Be Returned.

Russell E. Rich, negro, who is under indictment here for the murder of J. B. Oliver on March 3, 1930, will be brought back to Atlanta from Columbus, Ohio, by Detective E. W. Ginn, following action Monday of Governor Bulle of Ohio, in honoring Georgia requisition papers. At the office of Solicitor-General John A. Boykin it was said that Rich stabbed Oliver during a quarrel which followed Oliver's effort to get Rich home, Rich being drunk.

Survey of Killings in Atlanta Shows High Rate Within Race Group

Eighty Negro killers in Atlanta last year slew 76 Negroes and four whites and constituted 73 per cent of the 109 killers identified. These are the startling facts revealed by an exhaustive study of the city's homicide record for 1931 made for the Commission on Interracial Cooperation by the Atlanta School of Social Work, and given to the local Negro press by the former organization.

An analysis of this record, which gives Atlanta one of the highest homicide rates in the entire country, reveals the following facts:

Total number of victims 128, of whom 106 were Negroes and 22 whites. Twenty-two of the Negro victims were women. Known killers 109, of whom 80 were colored and 29 white. Of the Negro killers 14 were women. Negroes killed by Negroes 76. Negroes killed by civilian whites 9. Negroes killed by police 11. Whites killed Negroes 4. Whites killed by whites 9. Whites killed by police 1. Killers unidentified 19. These figures give the following percentages:

Negro victims, 83 per cent of total; white victims, 17 per cent.

Negro slayers, 3.4 per cent of total; white slayers, 26.6 per cent.

Of the 96 Negro victims whose slayers were identified 79 per cent were killed by Negroes, or four in every five, 9.4 per cent by civilian whites, and 11.4 per cent by police.

THREE-YEAR SENTENCE FOR AUGUSTA NEGRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga., June 9.—(AP)—Mattie Abney, negro woman, in whose market basket officers found the legs of a woman, was convicted today in superior court of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison.

Evidence showed the legs a part of the body of Ruth Burns, negro school teacher, whose torso was found along the bank of the city power canal. The head and arms were found in a woodshed near the Abney house.

NEGRO FOUND SLAIN ON LOADED COAL CAR

MACON, Ga., July 10.—(AP)—The body of Edgar Scott, negro brakeman, was found early this morning on a pile of coal in a car on a Southern railway train.

The negro's head had been battered. There was a heavy iron pipe smeared with blood beside the body. He was last seen alive when the train was just outside the yards in Atlanta.

TWO WOMEN WITNESS EXECUTION OF NEGRO

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., June 10. (AP)—With a daughter and a sister-in-law of his victim as witnesses, Willie (alias Yank) Rounds was electrocuted here today for the murder of W. V. Gunter, Houston county farmer.

He was convicted in 1931 following a trial in which the state depended largely on a dying statement by Gunter that Rounds stabbed him in the back the day after Gunter had ordered the negro off his farm where Rounds was employed. Gunter was quoted as saying he drove up to the negro's house to talk to him, and was stabbed in the back as he got out of his car.

The women witnesses to the electrocution were Miss Willie Mae Gunter of Perry, and Miss Essie Craig, of McDonough. Outside the death chamber was Mrs. W. A. Craig, of McDonough, Gunter's mother-in-law, and Billy Patterson, of McDonough, a nephew of Gunter.

Negress Guilty of Slaying Girl, Toting Off Legs

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Evidence showed the legs a part of the body of Ruth Burns, Negro school teacher, whose torso was found along the bank of the city power canal. The head and arms were found in a woodshed near the Abney house.

The defendant had been indicted on charges of manslaughter, abortion and illegally disposing of the body of the Burns woman.

The defendant denied performing an operation on the woman, claiming she died from medicine she had taken and a quantity of ice water she drank after taking the medicine. She was released on $3,000 bond pending an appeal for new trial.

DR. R. E. HERRON KILLED BY NEGRO

Bainbridge Veterinarian Shot Down in Car; Slayer Carried to Another City

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., June 18.—Dr. R. E. Herron, 40, veterinary surgeon and a leading citizen of this city, was shot and killed late tonight by a Negro, on a down town street.

Police arrested a Negro known as Sam, alias Frank Hall, charged with the shooting. He was spirited away to an unannounced destination by Sheriff W. J. Catledge and Chief of Police John H. Emanuel because of ill feeling that was immediately aroused.

Cars containing excited citizens poured out of this city in every direction in quest of the Negro.

Dr. Herron came here from Auburn, Ala., about 12 years ago. He was unmarried.

Tonight he was out riding with a young woman of this city and stopped his car to light a cigarette. He flashed his bright lights, his companion said, on an object ahead. It was a wagon in which the Negro was said to have been seated.

The police were informed that the Negro cursed the veterinary. He drove around the block and when he came up beside the vehicle again the Negro is alleged to have opened fire. Dr. Herron was shot through the heart.

The Negro claimed that Dr. Herron fired first. Police said that Dr. Herron's pistol had not been discharged.

CONVICT'S DEATH IS BEING PROBED

Spalding Grand Jury to Investigate Killing of Negro; Randall Being Held

GRIFFIN, Ga., July 16 (AP)—The Spalding county grand jury has been called to investigate the death of John Thomas Lassiter, Negro convict, for whose death Capt. P. H. Randall, superintendent of county convicts, has been ordered held on murder charges by a coroner's jury.

Witnesses testified at the inquest that Randall beat the Negro when the latter refused to work. An autopsy revealed the Negro died from a fracture of the skull. R. L. Addelton, chairman of the coroner's jury, said there were bruises on the Negro's face and head.

The Negro died Wednesday. Sunstroke was then announced as the cause of death. Addelton was not satisfied and began the examination and investigation which led to the jury's verdict.

Witnesses who testified included other convicts and an employe of the state highway department. Judge Searcy today ordered the grand jury to meet Wednesday to consider the case.

White Man Shot Stealing Melon

Shot early Thursday night while in a negro man's watermelon patch, Vaughn Richards, 27, of Morrow, Ga., was brought to Grady hospital late Thursday night in a serious condition.

According to Richards' neighbors, Roy Jenkins and William and Byron Grant, of Morrow, who brought him to the hospital, Richards was shot with a shotgun by the negro who found the man in the melon patch. Several shot pierced Richards' chest and doctors said the left lung probably was punctured. His left eye was put out by a leaden pellet. Richards said he stopped in the patch to get a melon to eat when he was shot.

POLICEMAN'S SON KILLED BY NEGRO

Youth and Companions Said to Have Chided Him as He Passed Along Street

ATLANTA, July 31 (AP)—Evans Bullard, 22, son of an Atlanta policeman, is dead and authorities are seeking an unidentified Negro who shot Bullard to death Saturday night when the youth and three companions chided him.

Police headquarters Sunday said that no suspects had been arrested because they had no clues.

Reports to police, from an eyewitness, J. S. Dye, were that the Negro, after shooting Bullard in the chest, walked casually away for the distance of half a block and then broke into a run. Dye was unable to give a description of the Negro.

Negro Said Nothing

Dye told police Bullard and his companions were sitting across the street from his home when the Negro came along. He said the Negro said nothing, but one of the quartet told him to "go on, you're no policeman." The Negro speeded up his pace and when the boys arose as if to follow, the Negro warned them to stop and drew his gun and fired.

Bullard was dead on reaching the hospital. Police said they were informed C. N. Cobb and J. H. Hall were two of Bullard's companions, but that they have not been able to locate either.

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO DIE AUGUST 19

FORT VALLEY, Ga., Aug. 6.—(AP) Albert Jackson, negro, convicted of killing Mr. and Mrs. Green Hartley, aged Peach county couple, today was sentenced to die in the electric chair at the Milledgeville prison on August 19.

Jackson previously had been sentenced to death on May 20 but was granted a respite.

NEGRO IS HUNTED IN BULLARD DEATH

No Clues to Identity of Youth's Slayer Uncovered by Police.

The negro who killed William Evans Bullard, 22, son of Patrolman Oscar Bullard, on Capitol avenue near Weyman late Saturday night was being sought Sunday by city detectives who located a filling station man who is believed to have talked with the negro shortly after the shooting.

The filling station operator was at Capitol avenue and Ridge avenue when a negro came along, police said. When the white man asked what the trouble was in the direction from which the negro came, the negro said that somebody had been shot, police said. No suspects have been taken into custody.

J. S. Dye, who said that he saw the shooting from the front porch of his home at 1101 Capitol avenue, told police that Bullard and three friends were sitting on the sidewalk when the negro came along. Told to "go on, you're no policeman," the negro increased his pace, but halted and warned the boys to stop when they started to follow. The negro fired when the boys failed to stop, it was said.

Funeral services for Bullard will be held at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon from Capitol Avenue Baptist church. The Rev. W. H. Major, pastor, will officiate. Interment will be in West View cemetery.

In addition to his father, Patrolman M. O. Bullard, young Bullard is survived by two sisters, Miss Ruth Bullard and Mrs. A. G. Beard, and two brothers, Floyd and Forrest Bullard.

3 NEGROES ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON COUPLE

AVERICUS, Ga., Aug. 13.—Dunforced to leave the of the Green negroes had and a report that one negroes had recently been e the Adams farm is vestigated in an effort negroes with the crime. of the assault are in a ins, 12 miles west of

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William Sapp, a wh

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TWO WOMEN WITNESS EXECUTION OF NEGRO

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., June 10 (AP)—With a daughter and a sister-in-law of his victim as witnesses, Willie (alias Yank) Rounds was electrocuted here today for the murder of W. V. Gunter, Houston county farmer.

He was convicted in 1931 following a trial in which the state depended largely on a dying statement by Gunter that Rounds stabbed him in the back the day after Gunter had ordered the engro off his farm where Rounds was employed. Gunter was quoted as saying he drove up to the negro's house to talk to him, and was stabbed in the back as he got out of his car.

The women witnesses to the electrocution were Miss Willie Mae Gunter of Perry, and Miss Essie Craig, of McDonough. Outside the death chamber was Mrs. W. A. Craig, of McDonough, Gunter's mother-in-law, and Billy Patterson, of McDonough, a nephew of Gunter.

Negress Guilty of Slaying Girl, Toting Off Legs

AUGUSTA, Ga., June 9. (AP)—Mattie Abney, Negro woman, in whose market basket officers found the legs of a woman, was convicted Thursday in Superior court of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison.

Evidence showed the legs a part of the body of Ruth Burns, Negro school teacher, whose torso was found along the bank of the city power canal. The head and arms were found in a woodshed near the Abney house.

The defendant had been indicted on charges of manslaughter, abortion and illegally disposing of the body of the Burns woman.

The defendant denied performing an operation on the woman, claiming she died from medicine she had taken and a quantity of ice water she drank after taking the medicine. She was released on $3,000 bond pending an appeal for new trial.

CONVICT'S DEATH IS BEING PROBED

Spalding Grand Jury to Investigate Killing of Negro; Randall Being Held

GRIFFIN, Ga., July 16 (AP)—The Spalding county grand jury has been called to investigate the death of John Thomas Lassiter, Negro convict, for whose death Capt. P. H. Randall, superintendent of county convicts, has been ordered held on murder charges by a coroner's jury.

Witnesses testified at the inquest that Randall beat the Negro when the latter refused to work. An autopsy revealed the Negro died from a fracture of the skull. R. L. Addelton, chairman of the coroner's jury, said there were bruises on the Negro's face and head.

The Negro died Wednesday. Sunstroke was then announced as the cause of death. Addelton was not satisfied and began the examination and investigation which led to the jury's verdict.

Witnesses who testified included other convicts and an employe of the state highway department. Judge Searcy today ordered the grand jury to meet Wednesday to consider the case.

Survey of Killings in Atlanta Shows High Rate Within Race Group

Eighty Negro killers in Atlanta last year slew 76 Negroes and four whites and constituted 73 per cent of the 109 killers identified. These are the startling facts revealed by an exhaustive study of the city's homicide record for 1931 made for the Commission on Interracial Cooperation by the Atlanta School of Social Work, and given to the local Negro press by the former organization.

An analysis of this record, which gives Atlanta one of the highest homicide rates in the entire country, reveals the following facts:

Total number of victims 128, of whom 106 were Negroes and 22 whites. Twenty-two of the Negro victims were women. Known killers 109, of whom 80 were colored and 29 white. Of the Negro killers 14 were women. Negroes killed by Negroes 76. Negroes killed by civilian whites 9. Negroes killed by police 11. Whites killed Negroes 4. Whites killed by whites 9. Whites killed by police 1. Killers unidentified 19. These figures give the following percentages:

Negro victims, 83 per cent of total; white victims, 17 per cent.

Negro slayers, 3.4 per cent of total; white slayers, 26.6 per cent.

Of the 96 Negro victims whose slayers were identified 79 per cent were killed by Negroes, or four in every five, 9.4 per cent by civilian whites, and 11.4 per cent by police.

THREE-YEAR SENTENCE FOR AUGUSTA NEGRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga., June 9.—(AP)—Mattie Abney, negro woman, in whose market basket officers found the legs of a woman, was convicted today in superior court of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison.

Evidence showed the legs a part of the body of Ruth Burns, negro school teacher, whose torso was found along the bank of the city power canal. The head and arms were found in a woodshed near the Abney house.

NEGRO FOUND SLAIN ON LOADED COAL CAR

MACON, Ga., July 10.—(AP)—The body of Edgar Scott, negro brakeman, was found early this morning on a pile of coal in a car on a Southern railway train.

The negro's head had been battered. There was a heavy iron pipe smeared with blood beside the body. He was last seen alive when the train was just outside the yards in Atlanta.

DR. R. E. HERRON KILLED BY NEGRO

Bainbridge Veterinarian Shot Down in Car; Slayer Carried to Another City

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., June 18.—Dr. R. E. Herron, 40, veterinary surgeon and a leading citizen of this city, was shot and killed late tonight by a Negro, on a down town street.

Police arrested a Negro known as Sam, alias Frank Hall, charged with the shooting. He was spirited away to an unannounced destination by Sheriff W. J. Catledge and Chief of Police John H. Emanuel because of ill feeling that was immediately aroused.

Cars containing excited citizens poured out of this city in every direction in quest of the Negro.

Dr. Herron came here from Auburn, Ala., about 12 years ago. He was unmarried.

Tonight he was out riding with a young woman of this city and stopped his car to light a cigarette. He flashed his bright lights, his companion said, on an object ahead. It was a wagon in which the Negro was said to have been seated.

The police were informed that the Negro cursed the veterinary. He drove around the block and when he came up beside the vehicle again the Negro is alleged to have opened fire. Dr. Herron was shot through the heart.

The Negro claimed that Dr. Herron fired first. Police said that Dr. Herron's pistol had not been discharged.

White Man Shot Stealing Melon

Shot early Thursday night while in a negro man's watermelon patch, Vaughn Richards, 27, of Morrow, Ga., was brought to Grady hospital late Thursday night in a serious condition.

According to Richards' neighbors, Roy Jenkins and William and Byron Grant, of Morrow, who brought him to the hospital, Richards was shot with a shotgun by the negro who found the man in the melon patch. Several shot pierced Richards' chest and doctors said the left lung probably was punctured. His left eye was put out by a leaden pellet. Richards said he stopped in the patch to get a melon to eat when he was shot.

POLICEMAN'S SON KILLED BY NEGRO

Youth and Companions Said to Have Chided Him as He Passed Along Street

ATLANTA, July 31 (AP)—Evans Bullard, 22, son of an Atlanta policeman, is dead and authorities are seeking an unidentified Negro who shot Bullard to death Saturday night when the youth and three companions chided him.

Police headquarters Sunday said that no suspects had been arrested because they had no clues.

Reports to police, from an eyewitness, J. S. Dye, were that the Negro, after shooting Bullard in the chest, walked casually away for the distance of half a block and then broke into a run. Dye was unable to give a description of the Negro.

Negro Said Nothing

Dye told police Bullard and his companions were sitting across the street from his home when the Negro came along. He said the Negro said nothing, but one of the quartet told him to "go on, you're no policeman." The Negro speeded up his pace and when the boys arose as if to follow, the Negro warned them to stop and drew his gun and fired.

Bullard was dead on reaching the hospital. Police said they were informed C. N. Cobb and J. H. Hall were two of Bullard's companions, but that they have not been able to locate either.

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO DIE AUGUST 19

FORT VALLEY, Ga., Aug. 3.—(AP) Albert Jackson, negro, convicted of killing Mr. and Mrs. Green Hartley, aged Peach county couple, today was sentenced to die in the electric chair at the Milledgeville prison on August 19.

NEGRO IS HUNTED IN BULLARD DEATH

No Clues to Identity of Youth's Slayer Uncovered by Police.

The negro who killed William Evans Bullard, 22, son of Patrolman Oscar Bullard, on Capitol avenue near Weyman late Saturday night was being sought Sunday by city detectives who located a filling station man who is believed to have talked with the negro shortly after the shooting.

The filling station operator was at Capitol avenue and Ridge avenue when a negro came along, police said. When the white man asked what the trouble was in the direction from which the negro came, the negro said that somebody had been shot, police said. No suspects have been taken into custody.

J. S. Dye, who said that he saw the shooting from the front porch of his home at 1101 Capitol avenue, told police that Bullard and three friends were sitting on the sidewalk when the negro came along. Told to "go on, you're no policeman," the negro increased his pace, but halted and warned the boys to stop when they

3 NEGROES ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON COUPLE

AVERICUS, Ga., Aug. 13.—Dunforced to leave the Adams farm is Green, Bobbie Lee Green and being closely investigated in an effort Green negroes had recently been connect the negroes with the crime. as evidence and a report that one th victims of the assault are in a ties as evidence and a report that one spital at Plains, 12 miles west of of the Green negroes had recently been here.

Killings-1932

Patrolman Wounded, Negro Gunman Flees

Shot in the neck as he attempted to arrest a negro man at Fort and Cain streets, Patrolman J. A. Corley was admitted to Grady hospital early Saturday night in a serious condition. Corley's partner, Patrolman Roy Eddleman, shot several times at the fleeing negro but did not hit him, it was said.

According to reports, Corley and Eddleman approached the negro at the intersection of Fort and Cain and started to place him under arrest for being drunk. The negro drew a gun and fired once, without warning, the bullet striking Corley in the neck.

On information furnished by Lillie Young, of 294 Cain street, a negro woman, police late Saturday night were searching for Early Moon, a negro man, said to live at 294 Cain street. The Young woman told police Moon shot Patrolman Corley, and also shot at her son.

The bullet which struck Corley ranged through his neck and emerged under his right shoulder, attaches at Grady said. Though his condition was serious, physicians felt no fear for his life.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

SEP 20 1932

THE BOONE AFFAIR.

The colored population of the mountain sections up around Avery and Watauga counties has been of restricted character, largely by mutual consent. The population up that way is one of white self-dependence, but the few negroes who have found lodgment, principally as laborer, have been well-treated. However, the occurrence of Saturday in which an estimable young man was shot down in performance of his duty, is likely to cause a reduction, through mutual agreement on the deportation process of the already low percentage of colored population in those parts. It as an occurrence well calculated to incense the people of the community, and it is to their credit that they suppressed the usual inclination to violence, of which there would surely have been evidence in a population less respectful to the law.

POSSE KILLS MAN AFTER LONG HUNT

BOONE, Ga., Sept. 29.—(CNS)—Ralph Horton, 26 years old, is dead and Deputy Sheriff J. C. Farthing, 24 year old white man, is critically wounded, following an attempt on the part of the white man to arrest Horton last week. The shooting of Farthing took place at Horton's home where Farthing and another white officer went to arrest the dead man and his brothers.

The trouble leading up to the arrest started, according to the white police officers, some time before the shooting, when Ralph Horton and his brother, Norwood Horton, had words with a road construction boss over the discharge of a colored laborer. The construction boss swore out a warrant against the two brothers and Farthing went to arrest them.

Reaching the house, the mother of the Horton brothers refused the officers admittance and when Farthing pushed her aside forcibly and burst into the room one of the brother shot him. Escaping the other officer the two young men took to the mountains, seeking to cross the Tennessee state line. They were headed off, however, by a posse of over a hundred men who had been scouring the mountains with bloodhounds during the whole night. In the course of the arrest Ralph Horton was killed by members of the posse, and Norwood Horton was badly wounded. The injured man was later returned to the local jail here.

BLOODHOUNDS USED TO FIND MAN; KILL HIM

All-Night Hunt Ends in Man's Death

BOONE, Ga., Oct. 7.—Ralph Horton, 26 years old, is dead and Deputy Sheriff J. C. Farthing, 24-year-old white man, is critically wounded following an attempt on the part of the white man to arrest Horton last week. The shooting of Farthing took place at Horton's home, where Farthing and another white officer went to arrest the dead man and his brothers.

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several miles east of Damascus.

Sheriff Sid Howell, of Early county, who with Deputy Sheriff Guy Collins, brought Jackson to Albany, said that the jail in Blakely was already crowded and that there was inadequate space for the incarceration of Jackson there, and that the jailing of the Negro here was also an act of precaution, although he felt there would be no disorder when Jackson is returned for trial.

Posse Searches

A posse had been searching for Jackson since Davis was shot at Damascus Saturday. When Chief of Police C. H. Lanier attempted to arrest Jackson at the request of Mitchell county authorities, the Negro broke away and ran, officers said. As Davis, a bystander, sought to stop him, the Negro fired, killing Davis, officers reported.

The Negro was located Sunday by Chief Lanier about five miles from Damascus, but after an exchange of shots in which Jackson was slightly wounded he escaped again.

Sheriff Howell and his posse scoured the woods Sunday night and Monday, and Monday afternoon Jackson was captured by Liston E. Radney, who with H. C. Haddock, was searching for the Negro.

3 Rome Officers Held For Murder of Negro

ROME, Ga., Oct. 3.—(AP)—The Floyd county grand jury Monday returned indictments charging W. N. Cochran, C. E. Warren and John Adams, suspended policemen of Rome, with murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Cothran Warren, negro, during a raid on a gambling game.

Bench warrants were issued by Judge James Maddox and the trial of the defendants scheduled for the week of October 17-22.

The negro was killed when the officers allegedly found Warren and four other negroes participating in a game of dice.

It was in evidence at the coroner's inquest that the negro was shot while running from the scene of the raid. Another negro, Robert Dean, was wounded. The coroner's jury ordered the officers held for the grand jury under bond of $500 each. Neither of the defendants testified at the inquest.

NEGRO HELD AT ALBANY IN DAMASCUS SLAYING

ALBANY, Ga., Oct. 10.—(AP)—J. C. Jackson, Early county negro, charged with the murder of Mike Davis, young white man, at Damascus Saturday was lodged in the Dougherty county jail here Monday night after he had been captured in a Baker county wood, several miles east of Damascus

NEGRO BEING HELD FOR MAN'S DEATH

J. C. Jackson Placed in Albany Jail Charged With Slaying Damascus Citizen

10-11-32

ALBANY, Ga., Oct. 10.—J. C. Jackson, Early county Negro, charged with the murder of Mike Davis, young white man, at Damascus Saturday was lodged in the Dougherty county jail Monday night after he had been captured Monday afternoon in a Baker county wood,

White Youth Held In Fowler Slaying

DeKalb county police Monday night were holding a 22-year-old white man for questioning in connection with the fatal shooting Saturday night of John Fowler, 55, proprietor of a store and filling station near Avondale. The man held gave no address but gave his name as Howard Daniel.

The county police said that Daniel is being held without bond for questioning but that no formal charges have been docketed against him. Three suspects, a man, a woman and a boy were released Sunday after questioning.

Funeral services for Mr. Fowler were held Monday afternoon from the chapel of A. S. Turner & Sons, in Decatur. The Rev. B. L. Bond officiated and interment was in the Indian Creek cemetery.

Fowler was shot down by two masked bandits Saturday at his place of business and Tom Sockwell, a machinist employed by the county, who was in the place at the time, was wounded. Sockwell has been unable to say whether the bandits were negroes or white men due to the masks. These were found in nearby woods when the two were trailed by dogs.

WHITE GEORGIAN IS HELD IN DEATH OF COLORED MAN

MARIETTA, Ga., Nov. 10—(By CNS)—A white man, Y. T. Tarpley foreman of a large marble plant at Nelson, Ga., is under arrest here charged with the death of George Doss, a colored man. Doss was killed on a highway, when struck by an automobile. Witnesses state that the driver got out of his car and when he saw the man was a Negro, drove on. The license number was noted by several persons, who reported it to the authorities, who traced ownership of the car to Tarpley.

VENUE CHANGE DENIED NEGRO AT BAINBRIDGE

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., Nov. 17.—Judge B. C. Gardner, of Camilla, today overruled a motion for change of venue in the case of Sim Hall, negro drayman, indicted for the murder of Dr. R. H. Herron, prominent veterinarian, on June 18. Dr. Herron was shot down on the street as he stepped from his car in which he was riding with a prominent young woman.

The decision was made after about 40 witnesses from all sections of the county had testified no violence was likely should the case be tried here. Immediately after the killing Hall was rushed to Cairo and then to the Albany jail, where he has been held since for safekeeping.

Judge Gardner gave W. I. Geer, of Colquitt, counsel for the negro, notice he would refuse to sign a bill of exceptions. The case is expected to be tried the last of next week.

NEGROES ARE TRIED FOR MURDER IN COBB

MARIETTA, Ga., Nov. 25.—Cobb county superior court continued in session late today in an effort to clear up the criminal docket.

Ralph Durham, Acworth negro, was convicted today by a jury for the murder of his brother several weeks ago. The jury recommended the negro to the mercy of the court and Judge Jawkins pronounced the life sentence.

Lee Daniell, Marietta negro, went on trial this morning for the slaying of Cohen Pitts, negro, about a month ago. The jury received the case early in the afternoon and was still out late today.

The grand jury, which has been conducting an investigation of charges of cruel and illegal punishment of convicts at the county camp, will continue in session tomorrow. No announcement of the result of the investigation has been made by the grand jury and the jury findings will probably not be known until the general presentments are read in open court.

NEGRO AT BAINBRIDGE SENTENCED TO CHAIR

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., Nov. 25.—(AP) A jury in Decatur county superior court tonight returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree against Sam Hall, negro drayman, in connection with the fatal shooting of Dr. R. H. Herron, veterinarian, here on June 1.

The negro had been removed to a jail in Albany immediately after testimony was concluded. Lawyers accepted the verdict in his absence. The court sentenced Hall to die in the electric chair at the state prison farm in Milledgeville on Friday, December 23.

The jury was out on the case for an hour and a half after an all-day trial.

A COWARDLY CRIME

The brutal and cowardly manner in which an eighteen year old youth was murdered by a civil officer at the fairgrounds on Thansgiving Day should cause every citizen, irrespective of race, who believes in justice and fair play and the sacredness of life, to condemn this dastardly felony. It is certainly the duty of those in authority to see that punishment is dealt to the perpetrator of this unlawful and serious crime against society. It is an insult to law and order, which this irresponsible man was sworn to uphold and respect, for one deputized to uphold the majesty of the law to shoot to death in the back a human being who had committed only a minor offense. The efforts of attorneys for the accused to seek protection for their client under the pretense that he is a national guardsman, is not surprising, for it i sto be expected that every technical point will be raised to evade justice and escape punishment. It was startling to read in the Evening Press that the solicitor general would not oppose bail in a case of deliberate murder.

It is reported that the boy had "slipped" into the fairgrounds without paying his fare, and that when he was ordered to get out he attempted to leave, but probably did not move fast enough and the big gun of the national guardsman, who had been sworn in a few hours before as county policeman, was brought into action and the defenseless youth savagely shot in the back, not unlike an eager and bloodthirsty hunter would kill a roaming, wild beast in a dense forest.

This is nothing new. Things like this have occurred before and will happen again, and little will be done about them as long as we allow them to pass without vigorous protest and seeking every recourse in the courts of justice, but in the last analysis Negroes will never get an equal opportunity and fair consideration until they obtain a freer and fuller use of the ballot. We are kicked about, shot like rabbits and otherwise discriminated against largely because we are without political influence, and yet ninety per cent of our so-called leaders are completely indifferent as to their rights of suffrage and duties of citizenship.

NEGRO ARRESTED FOR SLAYING TWO

B. Anthony Captured in Florida; Lonnie Williams Is Being Hunted

NEWTON, Ga., Dec. 15 (AP)—B. Anthony, Negro, sought as one of the principals in the double murder near here Sunday afternoon of Copeland Jarvis and Bill Long, was captured near Port St. Joe, Fla., Thursday morning, officers here have been advised.

Lonnie Williams, companion of Anthony, is yet at large, but Florida officers said his arrest was expected momentarily.

Jarvis and Long, peace officers, were slain when they attempted to place under arrest a group of Negroes alleged to have been gambling on a public highway.

Five of the Negroes in the party were arrested later and are now being held as material witnesses. They have accused Anthony and Williams of the shooting, officers say.

MAN HEARS SELF SENTENCED TO DIE EIGHT TIMES

"My White Folks Ain't Goin' To Let Me Die," He Says

JACKSON, Ga. —(ANP)— His abiding faith in his white folks prevented Tom King from worrying when for the eighth time he was sentenced last week to die in the electric chair for the murder of a white man here, King declaring: "My white folks ain't going to let me die, cause I ain't never killed nobody."

King's case is one of the most peculiar and most interesting ever tried in the courts of this state. More than seven years ago he was convicted of killing a white constable during a raid on a still which he was operating. His white friends got behind him and secured a new trial for him. He was reconvicted and through certain influences brought to bear again he was granted a new trial.

Previous Trials

At this trial he was reconvicted and sentenced to die but again he was successful in getting a new trial. For seven times this procedure was carried out and each time with the same result. During this time he has been incarcerated in the Fulton County jail in Atlanta, where he was rushed for safety at the time of the killing.

He was returned here Wednesday to hear his fate for the eighth time. So perhaps King has a right to have his faith in his white folks. He has maintained his innocence from the beginning and continued to do so as he boarded the train for Milledgeville, where he will occupy one of the cells on death row of the state prison.

NEGRO SET FREE

THOMASVILLE, Ga., Oct. 28.—A murder trial yesterday in Thomas Superior Court ended in a verdict of not guilty for the defendant, Floyd Arnold, colored. He was accused of killing an itinerant white man, who gave his name as N. Pitts. Pitts was shot to death several months ago at night in the rear of an unoccupied Negro house.

Killings-1932

COMMUNISTS TRY MEMBER FOR MURDER

Chicago

Refuse to Surrender Slayer to Police

2/2/32

Policemen, acting on information supplied by a former member of the local communist organization, this week are investigating a report that the organization met last week to try the man who pushed William Spain, 18 years old, 4636 Calumet Ave., out of a seventh floor window of the Pythian temple, where the society held a benefit dance Saturday night, Feb. 28. Spain died Feb. 29.

According to reports the man on trial is a member of the organization, as was Spain, and instead of surrendering the "slayer" to the police the members of the group are conducting their own trial. A continuance was taken in the matter last week and will be resumed some time this week, the police were informed.

Several communist meetings have been crashed into but the assailant has not been found. The police, however, know his identity and his arrest is expected at any moment.

Will Ask Probe

Action on the part of the communists in trying the prisoner instead of turning him over to the authorities is regarded as an indication of their contempt for the police and the government. There was a report Wednesday that a grand jury investigation into the matter would be asked, and that all persons involved in the so-called trial or who are taking part in the concealment of the slayer will likely be indicted for obstructing jutsice.

A coroner's jury investigating the Spain case at the county morgue last week returned a verdict of murder, which makes it possible for charges of accessory after the fact in murder to be brought against the persons who are shielding the slayer.

Saw Slayer Flee

The dance was given by the Chicago branch of the Scottsboro national defense to raise funds to aid the defense of eight youths sentenced to death on an attack charge in Scottsboro, Ala.

Several outstanding stage stars, including the McLain twins, Ernestine and Josephine, contributed their talent toward the entertainment of the 500 and more couples who attended.

Police were told by several witnesses that a man was seen fleeing the hall after the tragedy, but only a partial identification could be obtained at that time.

Although he had been hurled from the seventh floor, Spain got along fine in the hospital for a day and physicians entertained high hopes that he would recover. He grew worse early Monday and succumbed about 4 p. m.

Negro Kills 2 Persons, Is Slain by Officers

Courier

4-2-32

CHICAGO, April 4.—(AP)—A negro described by police as demented, slew his wife, killed a white policeman and was shot to death when he elected to shoot it out with 50 police reserves yesterday.

For a long time the negro, Ed Walsh, 35, resisted the raking fire of machine guns and tear gas used by the reserves in efforts to drive him away from barricades he had erected in his home.

The gas finally forced him to leave and police snipers brought him down.

Two detectives were wounded during the gun play by the accidental discharge of a shotgun in the hands of a fellow officer.

Neighbors said Walsh came home and found his wife with Juan Fernandez, a Mexican boarder. He killed the woman and critically wounded Fernandez, who fled despite his wounds.

Policeman Raymond Kelly was sent to investigate after the neighbors reported a "domestic disturbance." Walsh shot him dead as he crossed the threshhold.

CHICAGOAN IS SHOT BY WHITE CONDUCTOR

Courier

5-14-32

CHICAGO, May 12.—As the re
sult of an alleged quarrel over a
transfer, Conductor James Halifork
white, fatally shot Eugene Young
of 1252 W. 110th street, here Thurs
day. The shooting is said to have
culminated a series of arguments
between the pair. Young died in-
stantly from four bullet wounds in
the chest.

After questioning eight witnesses
to the tragedy, Deputy Coroner
Proctor contended that Haliford
shot his passenger without provo
cation and that the conductor had
armed himself because of previous
quarrels, threatening that he was
going to "get" Young. Haliford is
being held pending the final de
cision in the case.

CHICAGO POLICE SEEK NEGRO FOR MURDER

Courier

12-3-32

CHICAGO, Sept. 1.—(AP)—Police were searching today for a negro bandit reported by Mrs. Vera Corbet Davis, 28, to have attacked her after killing her escort, James Egan, 28-year-old huckster.

Mrs. Davis, who is estranged from her husband, said she and Egan were riding in his automobile on the south side last night when the negro jumped on the running board and, with pistol pressed against Egan's back, ordered him to drive to a nearby vacant tract of land. He then forced the couple out of the car, Mrs. Davis said, and without further word shot Egan in the back. After attacking her, Mrs. Davis said, the negro seized her pocketbook and fled.

WHITE PAINTER FACES PRISON FOR SLAYING

Courier

12-3-32

Arrested on a charge of violating the Sullivan law as a result of the death of George Keiser, 40, of 123 E. 110th St., John Guyhuetto, (white), 64, a painter, of the same address, was held Wednesday without bail for a hearing Friday in Harlem court.

Keiser was found dead in the hallway of his home. He is believed by police to have been beaten to death following a quarrel with Guyhuetto.

Assistant District Attorney Harold Frankel told the magistrate that he had been informed by the police that two witnesses had reported having seen Guyhuetto assault Keiser with a blackjack.

Detective Dougherty of the E. 104th St. station, who was assigned to make an investigation, alleges he found a blackjack in the basement of the house where Guyhuetto lives. The latter denied ownership of the weapon. He also denied that he had engaged in any quarrel with Keiser or had assaulted him. Frankel requested that Guyhuetto be held without bail, pending the result of an autopsy on the body of Keiser.

COPS SLAY 2 CHICAGO BANDITS

Courier

12-31-32

CHICAGO, Dec. 29—(ANP)—In a pistol battle which aroused the residential neighborhood in the vicinity of 43d street and St. Lawrence avenue, Wednesday afternoon, two policemen, white and two holdup men, colored, shot at one another. When the fracas was over one policeman's clothing was pierced by two bullet holes where shots from the bandit's guns had grazed him, and both the Negroes lay dead. One has been identified as Leroy Bowie who lived in East Chicago, Ind. The other is thus far unknown. The policemen Henry Van Bogget and Thomas J. Delanty of the Wabash Avenue station, were called to 4332 St. Lawrence avenue, where a fight was reported in progress. When they arrived it was learned that Mrs. Irene Coleman of that address had just been robbed of $360 which she kept in a trunk by two men who forced their way into the house and demanded that she show them where she kept the money. The robbers were retreating down the back steps as the policemen started in pursuit. The gun battle which ended fatally for the robbers followed

Killings-1932

Four Die When Feudists Meet in Churchyard

London, Ky., Jan. 16.—[Special.]—"Preaching" was held in the drab little church at New Salem, 17 miles east of here, this afternoon. Word that a protracted meeting would be held had seeped through the surrounding valleys and over the hogbacks and knolls of the mountain country.

The meeting was called to hear a sermon by the Rev. Alex Profitt, 85 year old itinerant Baptist pastor of several mountain churches.

Early in the day the people of the hills began to slip and slide down the muddy paths that pass for roads. The rains had made them impassable to all but pedestrains and the riders of mules. The people came afoot, the husband walking ahead, the wife following and the children trailing along behind; they came on muleback, the husband in the saddle with the wife behind, sometimes seated sidewise and sometimes astride.

Saddle Bags Filled.

Before the man of the family and flung across the mule's neck were saddle bags, of strong leather, handed down, generation to generation, since the time of the revolution. In one bag was the "snack" to be eaten at noon; in the other corn for the mule. Perhaps there was some contraband, for the white corn juice still lives back in the hills, despite years of "revenuers" and now the Volstead act.

By noon, 300 had gathered. There was suppressed excitement, for the Crook family—they call them the "Crookses"—and the Johnson family had announced they were coming. There had been whispers back in the hills for months that the Crook clan had claimed one of the Johnsons had wronged a Crook girl.

Johnsons Arrive First.

The Johnsons arrived first. They tied their mules and horses to the rack in front of the church yard. The women folk went into the church, but the men remained outside. Then came the Crook men and as they hitched their mounts and entered the yard, the Johnsons were in a group. Services had started and a hymn was coming from the church as the two groups met.

All the neutral men in the yard stepped quickly aside.

Witnesses said one of the Johnsons stepped forward and said, "we want to make peace," and one of their kinsmen—for the Johnsons and Crooks are distant cousins—replied:

"There will be no peace between us."

A Burst of Shots.

There was a burst of revolver fire. "Big Henry" Johnson, 35, was dead; his brother, Earl, 25, was so grievously wounded that he died tonight; "Little Henry" Johnson, first cousin of "Big Henry," was wounded, and Willie Johnson, brother of "Little Henry," also was shot, but not killed.

The guns of the Johnsons also had taken toll. Homer Crook, 32, and his brother, Forrest, 30, were dead.

The wounded were brought to London, where they are in the hospital under technical arrest, but Laurel and Clay counties expect more trouble. New Salem lies on the boundary between the two, and both counties are full of mountain men related to one or the other of the families, perhaps to both and hatred flames quickly.

No one will tell the name of the Crook girl to protect whose ho or another feud has come to the Cumberlands.

Harlan, Ky., Negro Gets Life On Murder Count

HARLAN, KY., June 11.—(AP)—"Big Cigar" Phillips, negro, was convicted tonight of the murder of Deputy Sheriff James Daniels in the battle of Evarts and sentenced to life imprisonment. The jury deliberated four hours and fifty minutes.

In their closing arguments, the defense sought acquittal on the ground Phillips took no part in the fight in which two deputies sheriff, a commissary clerk and a miner were slain, and the prosecution asked for the death penalty.

The trial started May 30 when a special term of court was called for the murder trial of a group of men indicted as a result of the Evarts battle. T. B. McGregor presided as special judge in the absence of Circuit Judge D. C. Jones.

Two men already have been given life sentences following their conviction in their case. They are W. B. Jones, and W. H. Hightower, mine union officers at Evarts, who were tried at Mount Sterling on a change of venue.

NEGRO GIVEN LIFE IN MINE WAR DEATH

HARLAN, Ky., June 11.—(AP)—E. "Big Cigar" Phillips, negro, was convicted tonight of the murder of Deputy Sheriff James Daniels in the battle of Evarts and sentenced to life imprisonment. The jury deliberated 4 hours and 50 minutes.

Two men already have been given life sentences following their conviction in the case. They are W. B. Jones and W. H. Hightower, mine union officers at Evarts, who were tried at Mount Sterling on a change of venue.

Dixie Roughneck Kills 3 in Cold Blood; Riot Averted

HAZARD, Ky., Dec. 30.—All is quiet in this settlement this week following the ruthless murder of three members of the Race and the probable fatal wounding of a fourth by a white roughneck, who became enraged because a citizen refused to leave his bed at 10 o'clock at night and help him repair an automobile that had been wrecked on the highway.

The dead are Martha Stacy, 17 years old; Luther Combs, 28, and Fred Brown, 29. Jessie Stacy, 19, with a bullet in her head, is gravely ill and is not expected to live.

Roughneck Is Slayer

A Kentucky sheriff arrested the slayer and his companion soon after the shooting and a Kentucky grand jury indicted them at once. An early trial is expected.

French Vermillion, owner of the car, who was armed when arrested, according to the police, and Mollie Caldwell and Sherman Townes are the trio under indictment.

Vermillion, it is alleged, went to the Stacy home on Liberty St. about 10 o'clock to get help in getting his machine back on the highway. One of the occupants of the house is reported to have suggested that he call a garage for help, saying the task was too great.

Riot Is Averted

Vermillion, resenting the suggestion, then drew a pistol and began firing wildly, it is charged. Shooting with machine-gun rapidity and like precision he mowed down the occupants like weeds before a reaper.

At the break of day all Hazard was astir and there was indication of an uprising. Race citizens, vehemently protesting the unprovoked killings, started whisperings which caused the entire community to become uneasy. A riot threatened and was averted only by the quick arrest and indictment and promise of a speedy trial.

The better element of the white citizenry expressed extreme bitterness for the trio who engaged in the uncalled for murders and united in urging justice at the bar.

Killings – 1932

NEGRO KILLS TWO IN PRISON BATTLE

Third Policeman and Trusty Wounded Before Prisoner Is Slain.

NEW ORLEANS, March 9.—(AP)—Running amuck with pistols and a pump gun in the twelfth precinct police station here today Percy Thompson, 28-year-old negro, held off a hundred officers for an hour, shot and killed two policemen, wounded a third officer and a negro trusty and two hours later paid with his life while being transported in a police automobile.

The dead are Patrolman Cornelius Ford and Corporal George Weidert. The wounded are Patrolman Albert Oestricher, with a bullet wound in the abdomen and William King, the negro trusty.

Thompson was shot in the chest as he was rushed in his unlocked cell by a group of officers led by Harry Gregson, chief of detectives, and was disarmed and captured.

He was taken to Charity hospital for treatment of his first wound. There Thompson told officers he rebelled over a beating given him by officers with a rubber hose. He said he snatched Officer Ford's pistol and shot him.

On being taken from the hospital to the first precinct station, Thompson was said by Officers Vick Swanson and James Smith, accompanying him, to have snatched at Swanson's pistol holster in an attempt to get his revolver. Swanson shot the negro near the heart and Thompson died a few minutes later.

More than a hundred policemen, led by heads of the police department, rushed to the little jail in the heart of the negro section at the alarm that pandemonium had broken out in the jail.

Angry Whites Invade Railroad Roundhouse and Kill Worker

BATON ROUGE, La., May 6.—With his body riddled with bullets, Frank Johnson, veteran fireman on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad, was found dead in the round house here Saturday morning. He was the fifth victim in a series of mysterious attacks on the railroad's Race employees.

Johnson was sprayed with buckshot by a group of white gangsters as he was cleaning the cab of his engine just before starting on his run to Vicksburg, Miss. There was evidence that he was shot from behind. The attack was well planned, and from all indications Johnson was "put on the spot."

"Put on the Spot"

All employees were out of the roundhouse at the time. The gangsters entered quietly and opened fire on Johnson. The explosion, it is said, sounded like several railroad torpedoes.

At least seven other Race railroad employees of the Y. & M. V. line have been injured in attacks caused by unemployed white men eager for jobs on the road.

James Weddington of Vicksburg, a fireman, the father of seven children, was shot down recently as he was firing his engine just outside of Vicksburg. The white men sitting in a parked car near the tracks shot him when the train was halted by a red flare on the tracks. Aaron Wilkes of Vicksburg, another fireman, was killed a week earlier.

To Keep Race Employees

Unemployed white men have appealed to the railroad company for jobs, but the company has flatly refused to dismiss Race employees. It is believed that their failure to get positions as firemen, brakemen and section hands is the real cause of the mysterious attacks upon our people.

Recently an investigation was conducted by railroad officials, but no arrests were made. Since that time several other Race employees have been injured by whites.

At a mammoth mass meeting held at a church in Vicksburg the firemen and brakemen employed by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley railroad scored the company for its failure to offer them protection. On the other hand, the men have begun arming themselves and plan shooting down all suspicious persons who molest them while they are working.

Negro Held In Probe Of Box Car Slaying

SHREVEPORT, LA., Aug. 18.—(AP)—Sheriff T. R. Hughes announced today that Jesse Byrd Peterson, 26, negro, had confessed to robbing a white hobo on a train near here. He is being held as a suspect in the hobo hijacking and slaying recently of Jesse McBurney.

Bodies of three other men have been found on railroad tracks in this section and a number of hoboes have complained of having been robbed.

Peterson denied robbing and slaying McBurney but Sheriff Hughes said a razor found on Peterson had been identified as one having belonged to McBurney. The Sheriff said he found other stolen goods in the negro's possession.

McBurney was robbed while riding a Kansas City and Southern freight train. His mangled body was found on the track and officers said he had been slugged and his body dropped between the cars of a freight train.

FAMILY OF FIVE IS BEATEN TO DEATH

Negro Infuriated By Discharge Runs Amok, Killing Farmer, Wife, Three Children

LAKE CHARLES, LA., Sept. 1.—(AP)—A farmer, his wife, and three children were beaten to death in their sleep early today with a piece of iron pipe and their small home, five miles from Sulphur, La., then was destroyed by fire to cover the crime.

Sheriff Henry Reid said that Phillip Morgan, negro, confessed to slaying the family, saying he was motivated by the farmer's having discharged him as farmhand. Morgan and another negro, Josh January, who the Sheriff said confessed to holding a light for Morgan, were arrested.

Those dead: Robert Vincent, 38, whose body was badly charred; Mrs. Eva Vincent, 30, Marie, 12, Joseph, 10, and Clayton, 6, whose bodies, Coroner W. L. Fisher said, were "reduced to skeletons."

According to the confession, the negro entered the house after midnight and went from bed to bed, first beating to death the children and mother and last killing the father, who was awakened by the first blow on his head and then died as other blows fell.

The bodies were discovered by Buddy Pleasant, a neighbor two miles away, who said he rode horseback to the Vincent place after seeing the smoke of the burning house.

The Calcasieu Parish Grand Jury, called into special session this afternoon, indicted both Morgan and January on five murder counts and one for arson.

The confession made public by the Sheriff quoted Morgan as saying:

"The frist one I killed was Joseph Vincent, the oldest boy. I killed him by knocking him across the head with a piece of iron. The second one I killed was the little girl, Marie Vincent. I killed her in much the same way as I did the boy, by striking her over the head with my iron club.

"Next I killed Mrs. Vincent. She, like the others, was asleep and never moved after I struck her with the iron pipe. I then killed the baby girl, Clayton, with one blow of the pipe, as I had killed the others.

"I then hit Mr. Vincent over the head, and he raised up and hollered, 'What's iothe matter?' I then hit him again and he sank to the bed with a groan.

"I then set fire to the house and left."

FIVE ARE KILLED; TWO ARE ACCUSED

Sheriff Says Negroes Have Confessed Beating Family to Death and Burning House

LAKE CHARLES, La., Sept. 1 (AP) A farmer, his wife, and three children were beaten to death in their sleep Thursday with a piece of iron pipe and their small home, five miles from Sulphur, La., then was destroyed by fire to cover the crime.

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Wife And Three Negroes Indicted In Man's Killing

LAKE CHARLES, LA., Sept. 15.—(AP)—The Calsiau Parish Grand Jury today returned murder indictments against Mrs. Nancy Stewart Thompson and three negroes in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Thompson's husband, D. G. Thompson, in DeQuincy, Aug. 31.

At arraignments immediately afterward, all entered pleas of not guilty.

Thompson was shot and killed as he slept in his home, and the State charged his death was due to a plot in which Mrs. Thompson and the negroes collaborated.

Allan Thompson, negro, was ordered to trial Sept. 23, and Sept. 28 was set as trial date for Mrs. Thompson and the two others. Henry Woods and Pearl Myers.

Negro Found Guilty Of Slaying, Burning Body

LAKE CHARLES, LA., Sept. 19.—(AP)—Josh January, negro, on trial today on a charge of the slaying of Robert Vincent, five miles South of Sulphur on Sept. 1, late today was found guilty by a jury here. The verdict was returned after two hours' deliberation.

January was tried on a count charging murder. He was indicted by the Grand Jury jointly with Philip Morgan, negro, on five separate counts of murder and two of arson. The home of the Vincent family was burned and the bodies of the family were almost destroyed in the fire, after they had been killed.

Robert Vincent, the father, and four members of his family were slain. January will be sentenced later.

NEGRO HANGS FOR SLAYING

Killer Goes to Death on Scaffold at at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 27.—(AP)—Leaval Hubbard, 21-year-old Negro, was hanged in Parish Prison shortly after noon today for the holdup slaying of Edward J. Melancon, grocer, several months ago.

Negro Fireman Slain From Ambush on Train

BATON ROUGE, La., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Grant Johnson, of New Orleans, veteran negro fireman on the Planter, fast Yazoo and Mississippi Valley New Orleans to Memphis passenger train, was shot and killed tonight from ambush.

Authorities believe the slaying was another of a protracted series of attacks that have claimed the lives of a number of negro railroad employes in Louisiana and Mississippi the past year.

The negro was slain by a load of buckshot while his train was stopping a mile above Baton Rouge for fuel. The killer fled in the darkness.

Johnson was one of the oldest negro firemen in years of service on the Y. & M. V., having been in the line's employ for 25 years.

Killings-1932

I. L. D. TO CARRY CASE TO COURT OF APPEALS

free-Amarillo 2-6-32

Ades say New Trial Refusal was Already Cut and Dried.

LEE TO HANG

Berger Brands Case as a Legal Lynching.

TOWSON. — With the court already decided on the fate of Euel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, convicted slayer of Green K. Davis and his family in Worcester County, the arguments for a new trial offered by Bernard Ades, white, attorney, proved of no avail, and the death penalty was immediately imposed.

After Mr. Ades had presented his case and State's Attorney Godfrey Child arose to refute the contention he was waved to his seat by Judge Grayson as he, with Chief Judge T. Scott Offutt, and Judge Frank L Duncan withdrew. They returned in five minutes and ordered Lee to stand. He was asked if he wanted to make a statement.

"Have you anything to say before the judgment and sentence of the court is imposed?" asked Judge Offutt.

"Well, I'll say I have not had a fair trial, that's all," Lee declared.

Lee was the least affected of the witnesses in the courtroom and smiled as he was led out. Mr. Ades sat at his table, visibly depressed, for several moments after the prisoner had been led away.

The court had already decided what course it would take, he said, as this is the only way he could account for Lee's appearance in the courtroom. It is not the usual procedure, he said, to have the prisoner arraigned for sentence on the day of argument for a new trial unless sentence is to be imposed.

Cite Exceptions

Mr. Ades appeared in court without David Levinson, white, of Philaphia, who had assisted him in the trial. He argued the points cited in his motion which had been presented to the court sometime previously.

The death penalty was immediately imposed.

Legal Lynching

Louis Berger, local organizer of the International Labor Defense, told The AFRO that the whole procedure at Towsan was a legal lynching in which the machinery of the court was operated to prevent the defense from introducing evidence to point to the possibly guilty parties.

The judges and all of the officers of the court, he said, displayed openly their racial antipathy, which of itself, prevented the accused from getting a fair and impartial trial. The national office in New York has instructed the body to carry on the fight and has pledged more funds and additional lawyers to assist Mr. Ades if they are needed.

In the brief for a new trial eight paragraphs comprised the motion filed by Mr. Ades. The first two paragraphs charged that the regular panel of veniremen was not drawn from a list of male taxable inhabitants of the county from the poll books; that the special panels summoned by the sheriff in the courtroom were not fairly and impartially selected and that the jury itself was improperly drawn.

The third paragraph asserted that the regular and special panels were drawn without considering colored persons and that, therefore, the accused Euel Lee, was deprived of the equal protection of the law, contrary to the Constitution of the United States.

The fourth basis was the court's sustenance of an objection to the question, "Have you any case pending in this court at this time?" It was put to the foreman of the jury Howard H. Stockdale, during his examination.

Refused Question

The fifth contention was that the court refused to permit an attempt by the defense counsel to show that some time before the murder Green K. Davis, the murdered man, had shot at a neighbor. The motion also cited the court's refusal to allow defense counsel to tell why a witness identified merely as Sam was not present at the trial, as well as the court's refusal to allow Mr. Levinson to reveal details of an alleged conversation between Governor Albert Ritchie and Mr. Ades, counsel for the defense, concerning efforts to produce witnesses.

The sixth contention of the motion concerned statements by State's Attorney Anderson during his argument to the jury to the effect that Lee had intended to burn the Davis home after killing the entire family of four. These statements the motion charges were to prejudice the minds of the jury and were directly naming Lee as the murderer when he had not been convicted and because those facts had not been based on the evidence.

The seventh contention was that the court had been unfair in the overruling of many objections made by the defense against the admission of evidence and the overruling of defense counsel's motion that a stenographic record be furnished the defendant without charge.

The eighth and concluding item was a promise that further grounds would be produced at the court hearing.

Mr. Ades told reporters that he would file a petiton for a stay of execution of the sentence and carry the case to the Court of Appeals. He maintains that the exclusion of colored jurors was the result of deliberate acts of discrimination.

Protest "All White" Jury

Call 1-23-32

Kansas City, Mo

A group of members of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights as they entered a hall recently in Baltimore to voice their disapproval of an all white jury to sit through and hear the Euel Lee trial, which ended last week in Towson, Md. Lee was convicted by a jury that deliberated thirty minutes. Miss Edith Collins, white, has one of the placards that was carried through the streets.

The Orphan Jones Decision

Daily Worker N. York
7-6-32

A few weeks after the partial victory achieved by mass pressure in the Scottsboro Case, the working-class can record another important victory.

Mass pressure which three times forced the lynch courts of the ruling class to postpone their murderous plans to legally murder the innocent Scottsboro Negro boys has likewise forced the Maryland Court of Appeal reverse the action of the lower court and to grant a new trial in the case of Yuel Lee (Orphan Jones).

Yuel Lee was sentenced by the Maryland lynch courts to hang in one of the most brazen frame-ups which even American capitalism has ever attempted against the Negro masses and the working-class. Because Lee resented being robbed of his wages by a rich white farmer, when the latter was murdered together with his family in a bootleg feud, Lee was at once arrested and framed-up by the police. The courts and the State of Maryland attempted to deny him the most elementary rights, such as the right to engage an attorney for his defense. He was finally railroaded to a death sentenc at a trial at which Negroes were carefully excluded from the Jury.

As in the Scottsboro case, the N.A.A.C.P. carried out in Maryland its role of assistant hangmen to the bosses. Soon after his arrest, the Baltimore attorney of the N.A.A.C.P. issued a statement declaring that Orphan Jones "was probably guilty." This was never repudiated by this organization.

The workers, Negro and white, took up the brutal challenge of the lynch courts. Hundreds of mass protest meetings denounced the frame-up of Yuel Lee and supported the International Labor Defense in its fight in the courts, in its demand that the courts recognize the attorneys provided by the I.L.D. for Lee and accepted by Lee. The workers demanded the unconditional release of this victim of lynch justice.

The present partial victory is a vindication of the revolutionary policy of mass pressure on the bosses lynch courts. They have been compelled to yield under the angry pressure of the masses. They have not freed innocent Yuel Lee, but are submitting him to a new trial in a pretense of "impartiality" and "fairness." Under this pretense they are manouvering to disarm the vigilance of the masses in the attempt to carry through the lynch verdict.

The frame-up of Yuel Lee is a measure of the murderous oppression against the Negro masses. The vicious reign of terror on the Eastern Shore of Maryland which followed his arrest was deliberately organized by the rich farmers in an attempt to intimidate the thousands of Negro agricultural laborers held in virtual slavery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, contracted out by Baltimore labor agencies and robbed of even the meager pay they are promised. Large numbers of Negro workers are framed-up and railroaded to death in this manner.

The Lee case is of particular importance today when seven of the young Scottsboro boys are in the shadow of the electric chair. The partial victory in both cases must serve as a further impetus to spread and build a tremendous defense movement for the Scottsboro boys and Yuel Lee and against the lynch verdicts of the bosses court. The struggle for the freedom of Lee and the Scottsboro boys are part of the fight for the liberation of the Negroes from national oppression which lies at the base of the whole vicious system of lynch law.

The workers must be on guard against legalistic illusions in the "fairness" and "justice" of the lynch courts.

No faith in the bosses courts! Only faith in the mass power of the working class! Demand the immediate unconditional freedom of Yuel Lee, the Scottsboro boys and other victims of boss class rule!

NEGRO BAR ON JURIES BRINGS GUILT REVERSAL

Baltimore Sun
7-7-32

ANNAPOLIS, Md., July 6.—(AP)—The practice of a Maryland county court in excluding negroes from jury duty was responsible today for giving a new trial to a convicted murderer.

The Maryland court of appeals yesterday ordered retrial of the case of Euel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, convicted of murdering Green K. Davis, a Worcester county farmer.

Lee was also charged with killing Davis' wife and two daughters after a wage dispute, but was tried only for the single murder.

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Savannah Ga.

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7/7/32

NEW YORK SUN

JUL 6 1932

NEGRO EXCLUSION ASSAILED BY COURT

Convicted Murderer Wins New Trial in Maryland.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., July 6 (A. P.).—The practice of a Maryland County Court in excluding Negroes from Jury duty was responsible for giving a new trial to a convicted murderer.

The Maryland Court of Appeals yesterday ordered retrial of the case of Euel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, convicted of murdering Green K. Davis, a Worcester county farmer.

Lee was also charged with killing Davis's wife and two daughters after a wage dispute, but was tried only for the single murder.

In handing down its unanimous decision the court said of the Baltimore County Court, where the trial was held:

"The evidence, with the long unbroken absence of Negroes from the juries selected, seems to show an established practice, confining selections to white men as effectually as if such a restriction were prescribed by statute."

The court found that in the last twenty-six years there had been no Negroes in the panel of Baltimore County Court juries. This, it said, "amounts to exclusion in the constitutional sense."

Attorneys for Lee, retained by the International Labor Defense, argued at the time of his trial a Negro should be permitted on the jury, but their request was refused.

The slaying of the four members of the Davis family occurred on October 12, 1931.

GREENSBORO, N. C. NEWS

JUL 13 1932

COLOR LINE ON JURIES.

A negro convicted of murder in Baltimore county, Md., has been given a new trial by the state Court of Appeals because negroes were excluded from the jury in the particular case and it appears that such is the custom in Baltimore county. The court found that the long and unbroken absence of negroes from juries in that jurisdiction was evidence of an established practice of confining selections to white men as effectually as if the exclusion was prescribed by statute This, the court held, amounts to exclusion in the constitutional sense hence the new trial.

Since the Maryland court found that a practice of long standing—in that particular locality not only but in many states, including North Carolina—is a violation of constitutional rights, one wonders whether this is the first case of the kind presented to the Maryland court or whether changes of personnel in the judiciary have brought to the bench minds that recognize the changed conditions. Eventually the change will probably come all about with the recognition that neither race nor sex is a disqualification for jury service. That isn't held now, of course, but the exclusion practice is as effective, as the Maryland court says, as if there was a statute to that effect.

Not all the courts, however, take the Maryland view. In other jurisdictions that point has been dismissed as of no consequence in the absence of evidence to show that the defendant was unfairly tried and that the unfairness was the result of racial discrimination. It being almost impossible to show that the courts generally may not come soon to the view that the absence of a negro from the jury when one of that race is being tried is a denial of constitutional rights.

THREE NAMED ON MARYLAND GRAND JURY

Baltimore Sun
10-8-32

Selection Is the First in Many Years

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 7.— For the first time in the history of Baltimore county three Race men are sitting as jurors on the grand jury of the circuit court, which opened its September term at Towson courthouse Saturday, Sept. 19. The men are Dr. Joseph H. Thomas of Sparrows Point, David T. Gwynn of Towson and Carlton Lumpkin of Towson.

Dr. Thomas and Mr. Gwynn had been selected when the original panel was drawn in August. The name of the third juror, Mr. Lumpkin, was drawn when it was discovered shortly before the hour set for the opening of court that one of the white jurors on the original panel was over the age limit for grand jury duty. The court was delayed for three hours while Mr. Lumpkin was located and brought in for duty following the drawing of his name.

The placing of Race men's names in the box from which the names of jurors were drawn changes a practice which has been followed in Baltimore county for more than twenty years of drawing, no names of Race men having been in the venire from which the panel for duty on either grand or petit juries were drawn. The change grows out of the decision of the court of appeals handed down in the Euel Lee case, through the efforts of attorneys of the International Labor Defense.

A retrial of the case of Euel Lee began Monday, Sept. 26.

Killings-1932

EUEL LEE TRIAL SET IN TOWSON NEXT WEEK

Afro-American

The long fight to prevent the trial of Euel Lee on the mob dominated Eastern Shore was won this week when judges of the First Judicial Circuit ordered the case moved to the Circuit Court of Baltimore County at Towson.

A lingering prejudice of the Eastern Shore judges was shown, however, in not granting Lee's request that he be tried in Baltimore City courts.

Were Forced

The decision of the First Judicial judges, John R. Pattison, Robert F. Duer and Joseph F. Bailey, was forced by a recent mandate of the Maryland Court of Appeals in which it indicated that it would reverse the decision if Lee were found guilty in a trial on the Eastern Shore.

The Appeals Court held that the accused could not receive a fair trial at Cambridge, where the case was set some weeks ago. The case is expected to be tried in Towson with Judge T. Scott Offutt presiding.

Ades Pleased

Although declaring that he would have preferred that his client be tried in Baltimore, Bernard Ades, attorney for the accused man, declared that he was pleased with the decision of the judges in moving the case from the Eastern Shore. "I would have gone there," he said, "if the case had been kept there and made a later appeal to higher courts."

Lee will plead not guilty when he faces the Towson court. He will allege that he was forced by third degree methods to put his signature on an alleged confession.

YUEL LEE'S TRIAL NOT TO BE HEARD IN LYNCHING AREA

Afro-American

Goes To Balto. County As Other Man Gets 16 Years

1-16-32

SALISBURY, Md.—(CNS)— The case of Yuel Lee, charged with murdering a white farmer and his family in Snow Hill, was removed last week to Touson, Baltimore County on the Western side of Chesapeake Bay, following the Court's decision that a fair trial could not be had on the Eastern Shore.

Maryland

This change of venue came as result of a determined effort on the part of Lee's counsel, Bernard Ades, to have the case moved. Ades appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals recently but that Court refused to interfere. However, in the decision refusing the appeal, the Court plainly indicated that a trial on the Eastern Shores, would in itself be a cause for the reversal of a conviction. Acting on this hint from the superior court, the lower court at once allowed Ades' petition for a change of venue.

The case will now be heard in Baltimore County, where it is felt that prejudice is less apt to interfere with the establishment of the innocense of the accused man. Lee, who was three times the victim of mob search in Worcester County, and Ades, who barely escaped lynching when he sought to appear as the man's counsel at Snow Hill, both claim that the accusations are false and that Lee is innocent. A confession, forced from the accused man after a 16 hour "third degree" will be strenuously opposed when the case comes to trial.

Fight for Law

The case, which started out as a fight to save Lee from what his friends called a legal lynching, has grown into a national fight against lynching.

When the trial begins Monday a number of witnesses from the Eastern Shore will be on hand. Willis Jones, Deputy State's Attorney, told the AFRO-AMERICAN Monday that no request for participation in the trial by the state had come from Baltimore or Dorchester County.

Judge Frank R. Duncan, of the Baltimore County Court declared that the regular police department of the county would be able to take care of the situation. He stated that Lee would receive a fair trial and that no demonstration of any kind would be allowed in the vicinity of the court house.

Colored on Jury

Bernard Ades, attorney for Lee, will insist upon having colored men on the jury, he stated. There is more to this trial than the protection of this one prisoner, he says. It is unconstitutional to keep men off the jury because of their race or color.

Inquiry at the office of the State's Attorney of Maryland revealed that nothing has come to the surface yet in Governor Ritchie's investigation of the Eastern Shore lynchers.

COLORED JURORS MAY SERVE IN LEE CASE

Afro-American

Bernard Ades will Insist that they be Included on Panel.

1-16-32

TRIAL SET FOR NEXT MONDAY

Baltimore Co. Judge Promises Fair Trial.

Surprise evidence, which has been unearthed by investigators in the Euel Lee case is expected to be presented when the accused man faces a court in Towson next Monday, the AFRO-AMERICAN learned this week.

While Bernard Ades, attorney for Lee, was reticent in making any statement which would reveal lines the defense would take, it was hinted that the case would bring out facts which would have bearing on the verdict.

Defense is Fighting Stubborn Battle for Accused

Afro-American

1-23-32

By RALPH MATTHEWS

TOWSON, Md.—Monday night at 9:30, the first day of the trial of the State of Maryland vs. Euel Lee alias Orphan Jones, charged with the murder of Green H. Davis and his family, was brought to a close.

Up to that time, except for the statement of State's Attorney Godfrey C. Childs, there has been little or no evidence to directly connect the defendant with the crime.

Bernard Ades, bushy-haired attorney for the keen-eyed, bald-headed little black man of 60 years, put the situation most aptly to reporters when he answered their inquiry as to what sort of case the defense had up its sleeve by saying,

"Unless the state gets Lee off of that road and closer to the Green Davis house, we won't need any case."

Mr. Ades referred to the testimony of the various state's witnesses none of whom could place Lee any closer to the alleged murders than a patch of woods a mile either on one side or the other of the ill-fated home where the quadruple slaying took place on the morning of October 11;

LEE LAWYERS LAY GROUNDS FOR CT. APPEAL

Judge Forced into Exposure of Illegal Methods.

ADMITS HE DID NOT FOLLOW LAW

Afro-American

Has Selected All White Jurors for 23 Years

1-23-32

TOWSON, Md.—Upon the failure of the Criminal Court of Baltimore County to include colored citizens on its selective panel and the forcing of Judge Frank R. Duncan of the Third Judicial Circuit to admit he had not followed the letter of the law in selecting jurors for the past 23 years or in the Lee trial, may hang the next step in the now nationally interesting trial of Euel Lee.

When the 60-year-old man went on trial at Towson Monday, the first step of the defense attorneys, comprising Bernard Ades of Baltimore, and David Levinson of Philadelphia, was to challenge the entire panel of 200 names of white men which had been submitted.

Not Fair and Impartial

In a petition, which held up the proceedings of the court for more than 45 minutes, the defense attorneys set forth that the jurors had not been chosen from a fair and complete list of the male taxable inhabitants or residents of Baltimore County; that the 200 names were not fairly and impartially selected and that all colored citizens were excluded solely because of their race.

They held that this manner of selecting a jury would act to the prejudice and detriment of the accused and prevent a fair and impartial trial.

Traps Judge

Under a searching questioning of Judge Frank R. Duncan, it was brought out that while the laws of Maryland stipulated that the clerk of the County Commissioners should furnish the clerk of the court poll and tax books from which he would select the panel, this was not done in Baltimore County.

Judge Duncan, who admitted that he did not follow the strict letter of this law, stated that he had selected the jurors in the Towson Court for 26 years. Said he:

"I have been drawing juries for the Baltimore County Court for 26 years. We have in Baltimore County about 65,000 voters and taxpayers. I get before me a list of the voters from the supervisors of election, and from this list and the tax books I select the jurors. I select them anywhere. A witness may impress me favorably, or I may meet someone at a social function or a church gathering who impresses me favorably. I make a memorandum concerning him, and then we inquire in his neighborhood as to his qualifications.

"Does he pay his debts? Is he law-abiding? That applies to the millionaire and the laborer alike. If we find that he measures up, I place him on the jury panel."

"The present law was passed years ago," Judge Duncan said. "And to carry out its provisions completely would be expensive and impractical. The point was raised in a case in the Court of Appeals some years ago and I made the same explanation I have just made here. The Court of Appeals approved my system."

Color Designated

In further bringing out the fact that the lists in Baltimore County specifically designated citizens by color, Mr. Levinson forced the Judge to admit that in the entire 26 years in which he had been selecting the jurors he had not selected a colored man.

"Do the poll books contain any evidence as to whether a man is white or colored?" Mr. Levinson asked.

"Yes," the Judge said.

"Have you ever selected a Negro for jury service?" Levinson asked, and the Judge said "No."

"In the present panel," Levinson continued, "did you exclude Negroes

LEE FOUND GUILTY

Afro-American

1-23-32

After deliberating for 32 minutes Wednesday afternoon, a jury found Euel Lee, accused of killing the Davis family, guilty of murder in the first degree. Sentence was suspended pending hearing on a motion filed by defense counsel for a new trial.

MISTRIAL ASKED, COURT SAYS, "NO"

TOWSON, Md.—A bombshell was thrown into the trial of Euel Lee at 10 a.m., Wednesday morning when David Levinson, white, attorney for Lee, leaped to his feet during the course of the argument of Godfrey Childs, white, state's attorney of Worcester County, and demanded that a mis-trial be

declared and the jurors be dismissed.

Mr. Levinson objected to the statement made by the prosecutor in which he said that Lee had killed the white family and had later drenched the house with oil and was planning to come back that night and set the house afire and destroy the bodies of the slain victims.

The defense attorney contended that such a statement was prejudicial to the defendant and that no such testimony has been developed through the course of the trial and that such a statement made by the state's attorney in the presence of the jury was equivalent to a mistrial.

He asked the court to declare the case void and to withdraw the jury.

After a few moments of consideration and consultation on the part of the three judges, Judge Offutt overruled the motion and Childs was permitted to continue his argument.

Jury Finds Lee Guilty in Md.

BALTIMORE. — Without recommendation for mercy, Euel Lee, 60-year-old Negro, was convicted of the murder of Green K. Davis today after the jury had deliberated thirty-four minutes. The trial had aroused much public interest.

Lee was accused of killing Davis, his wife and two daughters, but was tried on the first indictment, for murder of the Eastern Shore farmer.

David Levinson of Philadelphia, attorney for the International Defense League, who with Bernard Ades of the same organization defended Lee gave notice of appeal, pending motion for which sentence was deferred. The court will hear the motion Thursday.

There was no demonstration over the verdict in the crowded court room, the judges having warned against it.

During the last two days of the trial the defense league attorneys and the wife of Mr. Levinson and the secretary of Ades had been specially protected by a detail of police because of threatening letters received by Mr. Levinson. Mrs. Levinson assisted her husband as stenographer.

The recent lynching of a Negro on the Eastern Shore and threats made against Mr. Ades led to the trial being moved to Towson, near Baltimore.

Lee has been in the Baltimore jail since Oct. 12, where he was brought after his arrest. The crime was committed in Worcester County.

Drama in the Law

A drama was staged in Towson, Maryland, last week. Two Jewish lawyers, backed by the Communist Party, defended an humble black man accused of murdering four people.

No one conceded them a chance to save their man, but they battled heroically against publicity sentiment, against an admittedly unlawful method of selecting jurors and against the known race prejudice of Baltimore County which expresses itself in inferior schools, economic, social and political exclusion of persons of color there.

The Red lawyers towered like a church spire above the four county prosecutors and some of those who looked into the jim crow courtroom with its all-white judges, jury, police, bailiffs, and court clerks and colored spectators herded in a rear seat, wondered whether the ends of justice would not better have been served with Red judges on the bench.

Here was a legal battle in which, in our judgement, Messrs. Bernard Ades and David Levinson won a brilliant victory.

The alleged unlawfully picked jury voted against them, but the court of appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court may not agree with these hand picked boys up in Baltimore County.

Mississippi had Drama Two last week when a black lawyer, turned down by five judges of the Supreme Court, persuaded the sixth and last judge to grant him a little known writ and reprieve for an alleged rapist.

The reprieve came five minutes before the scheduled execution and followed two hours of long distance phoning and a 200-mile all-night dash in an auto over dirt roads.

This is the third postponement of this execution as a determined lawyer battles for the life of a client he believes innocent.

Not long ago, a young graduate of the Howard University law school wrote the AFRO-AMERICAN: "I have been practicing law for two years. I can barely earn a living. I am convinced there is no future in the legal profession. I am licked."

The cases cited above prove that the law as a profession offers a wide open field for service and real lawyers are sorely needed.

Our answer to the young graduate lawyer is to get a new pair of glasses, to go after clients in the day time and spend his nights over his law books.

The By-Products of the Lee Case

AN EDITORIAL

While the determination of the guilt or innocence of Euel Lee (Orphan Jones) in the Towson, Maryland, court this week was the first consideration, it develops that the by-products of this case are of great importance and wider significance.

Against the will of the Eastern Shore residents and the county court officials, the trial was moved to the calm and judicial atmosphere of a court room near Baltimore City. That alone is a great victory for order and decency.

Prosecuting attorneys from three counties, with a confession in their hands obtained by alleged third degree methods, feared or were unable to produce it in court. That is victory number two for justice and fair play.

And finally one of the three presiding judges was put on the witness stand to swear that he had selected juries for 26 years and never selected a colored juror, that he never considered colored persons as prospective jurors, that he selected jurors from among his associates at social gatherings and other places and that he violates the law governing the selection of veniremen for juries because it is impractical and expensive.

If Messrs. Ades and Levinson, International Labor Defense attorneys, did nothing more in this case than secure this sworn testimony from Judge Duncan, in this one thing alone, they have performed an important service of inestimable value to Baltimore County and the State of Maryland.

They laid the groundwork for an appeal to the Maryland Court of Appeals, and if necessary to the highest court in the land to determine whether Maryland courts may exclude citizens from jury service by any expedient or subterfuge on the ground of color.

This has been done by the International Labor Defense—the "dangerous" Communists, the radical Reds.

But these Reds have contended in the Euel Lee case against a trial in a mob atmosphere, against third degree police brutality, against exclusion of colored persons from juries.

These Reds, supposed enemies of the Bible and the United States Constitution, have contended for the right of an humble black citizen to a fair, orderly and impartial trial before a jury of his peers.

If that be dangerous, Communistic and radical, it is nevertheless patriotic Americanism to which all thinking citizens can well subscribe.

REFUSE MERCY TO LEE

Twelve White Men Return Verdict of Guilty After Half Hour's Deliberation — Daily Papers In District Jubilant Over Verdict.

TOWSON, Md., Jan. 28—(By CNS)—Euel Lee, 60-year-old colored man, accused of the murder of a white farmer and his family, was found guilty by a jury of 12 white men here last Wednesday, after only 32 minutes deliberation. The verdict carried with it no recommendation of mercy, making a death sentence mandatory. Immediately upon the announcement of the verdict, Bernard Ades and David Levinson, International Labor Defense lawyers, who acted as counsel for Lee, made a motion for a new trial. They stated that Lee had been denied due process of law and that the case would be fought to the Supreme Court of the United States in the attempt to win a reversal. Several motions for a new trial, and for an appeal if a new trial is denied, were before the court for action this week.

Lee's counsel facing an almost impossible task at the trial in the lower court, did their best to build up as strong a case for appeal as possible. Time after time they forced State prosecutors to admit that it was not customary to admit Negroes to jury panels. Even one of the trial judges, Judge Duncan stated that he did not consider Negroes in picking a jury panel.

The prosecution did not hesitate to bring in the race question at every stage of the trial. Godfrey Childs, State prosecutor, assailed as ridiculous the attempts of the defense to pin the crime on a white witness, thereby "sullying the reputation of a white gentlemen."

White newspapers in the lynching area along the Eastern Shore were jubilant last week over the conviction of Lee. Editorials praising the verdict appeared in several papers.

LYNCH VERDICT IN "TRIAL" OF JONES

Negroes Barred from Jury

BALTIMORE, Jan. 20. — Orphan Jones, aged Negro farm hand framed up on a murder charge has been found guilty by the lynch court at Towson, a town ten miles from this city. Sentence has been deferred, pending a motion for retrial by the attorneys of the International Labor Defense.

The I. L. D. attorneys charge that the jury was illegally chosen from the lynch gang in the court. All jurymen are friends of Sheriff Blair. The defense demand for Negroes on the jury was arbitrarily ruled out by the lynch court.

The defense proved a police frame-up against Orphan Jones and the probable guilt of a white neighbor of the murdered white farmer. The prosecutor called on the jury to decide between a white man and a Negro.

The State was unable to produce alleged confession which the capitalist press used to incite a lynch spirit against Jones.

Killings. 1932

Maryland

LEE AGAIN FOUND GUILTY AT 2ND TOWSON TRIAL

Jury Out Four Hours Before Reaching First Degree Verdict.

MUCH EVIDENCE CONTRADICTORY

State's Attorney and Court Stenographer Quizzed.

TOWSON, Md.—In spite of conflicting evidence by State's witnesses during a trial filled with contradictions, Euel Lee, 62-year-old farm hand, accused of the murder of the Green K. Davis family, of Taylorsville, was convicted by an all-white jury, early Thursday morning.

The jury brought in a verdict at 1:10 a.m. after deliberating for four hours.

The trial was, for the most part a mere recital of the incidents related in the first trial, held in the same court house, last February, with the exception of numerous blatent contradictions playing a large part in the length of time the new jury took to arrive at a verdict. At the first trial Lee was convicted in 32 minutes.

Officers Called

At the first trial a sensation was caused when the defense called Judge Frank I. Duncan to the witness stand to testify concerning his methods of selecting the jury.

At this trial the judge was not called but other state officers, including the court stenographer, Urban Lindsey, and State's Attorney Godfrey Child, Worchester County prosecutor, were forced to testify under oath.

After two trips out of the courtroom in company with the court stenographer to get notes made at the first trial and not transposed, Mr. Ades returned to begin the case for the defense at 2:50 p.m. Wednesday.

The state had rested its case at 2:20 p.m. and the half hour had been spent in argument between Chief Judge Offut and defense lawyers concerning the manner in which the defense would conduct its case by asking for records of the testimony at the first trial. Only the testimony of Euel Lee has been transposed from the first trial, and members of the defense contended that other witnesses had made contradictory statements in this trial.

It was with the view of having Mrs. Martha Miller, the state's star witness, contradict her previous testimony that she was called to the stand and questioned regarding her identification of a pile of stockings she said were found in Lee's room in her boarding house.

One-half an hour after she had been called to the stand, Mrs. Miller came in, while in the meanwhile Ades and Urban Lindsey, court stenographer, had been looking for the notes on the last trial and the jury allowed to repair to their rooms.

Evasive

Mrs. Miller was questioned and evaded a definite answer on her memory at the first trial except to say that "What I knew then, I know now."

During the questioning of Mrs. Miller, defense counsel was continually questioned by the judges presiding as to their method and object in conducting the testimony of their witnesses in regard to the contradictory statements.

In the questioning of the aged witness, Mr. Ades was stopped in his questioning by Judge Offut when he interposed that to his recollection she did not identify the stockings in her examination in chief and therefore could not be questioned regarding her testimony at the first trial.

After considerable argument, Mr Ades was allowed to go on with the questioning, and showed that Mrs Miller had not identified the scarf introduced in this trial as evidence In her testimony at the first trial she had only identified articles by pointing and saying "this" and "that." No definite numbered record had been kept of articles introduced at the first trial.

In order, then, to prove that the shirt and scarf had been in evidence in the first trial Mr. Ades summoned Godfrey Childs, district attorney of Worcester County, to the stand.

The district attorney was questioned and testified that the scarf and shirt had been used as evidence in the first trial and that they were also used in the second trial. The district attorney would not answer definitely about the first trial, saying he would answer only as to his recollection.

Pants an Issue

The pair of trousers that figured so prominently in the last trial were introduced again Wednesday. At this time the sister of the slain man told the court that she had found the trousers in an old trunk that had been moved to her home by the mother of Green K. Davis. This was several days after the murder, she said. A sample of the trousers was sent to the Baltimore City Jail where they were supposedly matched with the coat worn by Euel Lee.

At last trial Edward Howe, the next door neighbor of the Davis family, declared that he had found the trousers in a house hanging on a nail. This was seven days after the discovery of the murder, he had declared.

Bernard Ades contended that the trousers were not found by either of the witnesses at either place and did not belong to Green K. Davis.

He pointed out that the trousers were brand new and had evidently been made from the coat taken from Lee.

High Lights

Several high lights and dramatic moments came in the trial while testimony was being taken Tuesday

One white juror the preceding day had expressed his convictions that Lee was guilty when asked had he formed an opinion. He replied that he had. "Then it would take some evidence to change your present views?" he was asked. "Yes and a whole lot of evidence, too," he replied.

Another show of attitude was demonstrated when Robert Allen, white, chief of police of Ocean City, was testifying. Allen lost his memory apparently when being cross-questioned as to what happened while he was taking Lee to jail following his arrest. Testimony given at the last trial indicated that the 60-year-old farm hand had been blackjacked and otherwise beaten.

During his direct testimony, Allen voluntarily declared: "There never had been a minute after I got the telephone call that the Green Davis family had been killed, but that I was sure I had the right man when I got Jones."

It was this tendency to fasten the crime on Lee that has brought about the belief that all of the evidence aganst the accused man may have been "planted' by Eastern Shore officials.

Asks Mistrial

When Allen made the above utterance, Mr. Levinson rose and asked for a mistrial. This request was placed in the record as an exception.

Later in Allen's testimony he related the trip to the Davis house where he found District Attorney Childs and said he told the district attorney: "Ah got de man who done de job," whereupon the district attorney told him to take his prisoner to Berlin.

Mr. Levinson again jumped to his feet and asked that his motion for a mistrial be reconsidered on the grounds that the Ocean City police-man was stating his opinion and showing his prejudice in the case.

As before, the motion was denied and Mr. Levinson took an exception which was granted.

The jury was warned again no to regard Allen's opinion as evidence and Judge Offut told Allen:

"I warn you that if you repeat such a statement from the stand again this court will be forced to handle you."

Allen sulked in the witness chair like a scolded boy and seemed to be pouting as he answered a question concerning a bunch of keys to the Davis house in a very low voice instead of his usual loud Eastern Shore drawling tones.

The questioning of Allen was being carried on by Bernard Ades, local attorney for the International Labor Defense and assistant to Mr. Levinson in this case.

Question Allens Character

Mr. Ades in questioning Allen, brought strenuous objections from the prosecution when he asked Allen whether he was in good standing in his community. (He referred to a case of kidnapping in which Allen and some other Eastern Shore officials were accused.)

Mr. Ades referred to the kidnapping case and brought an objection which was sustained as well as an objection to Allen's answering when asked whether he was accused of abusing his office. The question, therefore, went unanswered after Mr. Anderson, one of the prosecution attorneys, had signaled with his hand to Allen not to answer the question.

Near the end of the testimony Mr. Ades asked Allen whether District Attorney Childs had told him Monday night at the Davis house of the murder to which Allen replied that he had not.

Euel Lee's Case Going Back To Appeals Court

BALTIMORE, Md. (ACNS)—The Euel Lee (Orphan Jones) murder case which has twice been before the Court of Appeals will again be presented to that high tribunal by the attorneys for the International Labor Defense. 4-5-33

On the first occasion the Court of Appeals declined to order the case removed to the Western Shore of Maryland, as requested by the defense, but the judges in the first judicial circuit, in which the murder occurred, several weeks later granted a change of venue to Towson. Previously they had ordered the case removed from Snow Hill to Cambridge. Norfolk, Va.

The last time a new trial was granted on the grounds that the jury panel for the first trial at Towson had been drawn improperly, in that no Negroes were included in the panel.

Recently, Lee was again convicted and sentenced to be hanged for the murder of Green K. Davis, white, Taylorville (Md.) farmer, his wife and two children. At that time Chief Judge T. Scott Offutt, at Towson, where the 60 year old Negro was tried, denied the motion of Bernard Ades, defense counsel, for a new trial

Killings – 1932

Another I.L.D. Victory

ATTORNEYS for the International Labor Defense won a signal victory in the case of Euel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, the 60-year-old man who was convicted in a Maryland county court of murdering Green K. Davis, a white Worcester county farmer, in October of last year, when the Maryland Court of Appeals unanimously ordered a retrial of the case on the ground that the court excluded Negroes from jury duty. It will be recalled that Lee was also charged with murdering Davis' wife and their two daughters.

IN HANDING DOWN its decision the appeals court said: "The evidence, with the long absence of Negroes from juries selected, seems to show an established practice confining selections to white men as effectually as if such a restriction were prescribed by statute." Then, after pointing out that there had been no Negroes in the panel of Baltimore County Court juries in the past twenty-six years, the Court of Appeals held that this "amounts to exclusion in the constitutional sense." This very point was stressed by attorneys for the defense when Lee was tried, but was not deemed important at that time; nor was it deemed of sufficient importance to get the defendant a new trial in the lower court following his trial and conviction.

BUT FOR THE DETERMINED OPPOSITION of the International Labor Defense in this case, Orphan Jones would have been "legally lynched" a long time ago; for that is exactly what happens when state courts flout the rights of citizens to trial by "impartial juries," which means also trial not in a mob-ridden atmosphere by racially prejudiced jurors. In most Southern courts it is not necessary to prove the guilt of a colored person when he is accused of certain offenses. Guilty or innocent, the verdict is invariably guilty, and this is because the jurors are partial, not impartial. The twenty-six-year exclusion in the Baltimore court is typical of the whole South.

IN THE LEGAL SENSE Euel Lee has not as yet been proved guilty. The evidence against him is entirely circumstantial and the alleged confession he made after being subjected to a brutal third degree inquisition was not even introduced in evidence. Yet the county court jury found him guilty of murder in the first degree after only thirty-four minutes of deliberation and denied him a new trial. The Court of Appeals is right in ordering a retrial of the case.

ANNAPOLIS, MD.
CAPITAL

JUL 6 - 1932

COSTLY JUSTICE

Legal technicalities are rather costly to taxpayers in most instances, and a perfect example of granting a new trial without possible advantage to the person requesting it is found in the ruling yesterday by the Maryland Court of Appeals, that Euel Lee, convicted Negro murderer, must have a new hearing because the judge sitting in the case discriminated against Negro jurors.

The Appeals group held that the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution was violated by the court in selecting the jury which convicted Lee, now condemned to be hanged for the slaughter of a family of Marylanders. The court may have had to return the verdict it did, but the law necessitating it is certainly contrary to public opinion, and a further proof that Congress enacts laws without thought of enforcing them. Maryland courts seldom, if ever, consider Negro jurors, and Federal authorities never have challenged the procedure or made any attempt to regulate the law.

However, a group of Communists, labcrites and radicals — certainly not disciples of government — challenge the trial of a murderer, and the court must agree with them. It might have been a bitter decision for the court to make, yet it was a triumph for the people mentioned above. It raises them from the ranks of the hopeless and forlorn to a position of victory and the right to continue to challenge. It was a triumph against the conservative and right-thinking people of Maryland—a tonic for the radicals.

Meanwhile what happens. Lee, still in jail, must continue to suffer the torturous knowledge that he must be hanged. Would it not be more charitable to hang the man at once, rather than to delay the trial a year, as is now practically certain? He was to have hung the past January.

A new trial will not mean that Negroes will sit on the jury. They may not even be called, and if they are, the State or even the defense will have the right to challenge. It is a safe wager that Lee will be re--tried by an all white jury, but one in which the Negro has not been discriminated against legally; that he will again be found guilty and re-sentenced to hang—and all at a considerable cost to the already over-burdened public. And who profits?

FRESNO, CALIF.
BEE

JUL 20 1932

No Place

Euel Lee, aged and friendless Maryland Negro, was convicted and sentenced to hang some time ago for the murder of a white farmer. It was only by the narrowest margin that he escaped hanging.

Through the efforts of white friends, who believed that a serious miscarriage of justice had occurred, the case was carried to the Maryland Court of Appeals.

The chief point in the appeal was that members of his own race had been denied the right to sit on the jury which heard his case, although there was nothing in the Maryland statutes that prohibited them from serving in that capacity.

In ordering a new trial of the case, the court of appeals declared this practice both generally and with reference to the Lee case denied to Negroes

that equality of protection which has been secured by the constitution and the laws of the United States.

And therein the court is right.

To place the life of Negro exclusively at the mercy of a white jury is as unfair and unjust as to place the life of a white man exclusively in the hands of a black jury.

Such practices have no proper place in the American judicial picture.

NEW YORK MIRROR

AUG 15 1932

Maryland Fears Riots As Negro Kills Citizen

SNOW HILL, Md., Aug. 14.—Race rioting again threatened this community today, following the killing of Herman Lewin by an unidentified Nego early today. Lewin was shot four times as he rode in his automobile. This section of Maryland was the scene of race rioting and lynching a year ago, following the murder of a family of six by Euel Lee, a Negro farm hand.

TWO IN LOGAN CIRCLE KILLING IN JAIL AT TIME

Charges Were Changed to Murder, I.L.D. Leaders Say.

CAN'T GET VET'S CASH FOR DEF'NSE

$500 Cannot Be Used for Legal Retainer.

WASHINGTON—In a mass meeting of the Logan Circle Defense held at the Jerusalem Hall here last week, a group of workers formed under the I.L.D., organized into a local solidarity with Bernard Ades, Baltimore attorney, as their chairman.

In an address before the local Communistic organization, Comrade William L. Patterson, scheduled speaker on the program, spoke on the present Logan Circle situation to bring about a perfect union of heretofore widely separated racial groups. While regretting the killing of an officer, Comrade Patterson stated he admired the spirit of the boys attacked by the officer, in their united resistance.

Speaking further, Comrade Patterson denounced the local police for their unwarranted refusal of licenses to local, Communistic sub-groups to hold open air meetings. The reason for the police action, the speaker stated, was given after repeated requests from members of the groups denied the freedom of speech, as a fear of agitation by the discussion of the killing of Officer Kennedy. This situation was met Patterson stated, by the members of the speaking committees making a promise to the police department that no mention of the recent act of violence in the local park, would be made.

No Reason Given

In a letter to the chairman of the local I.L.D., the assistant superintendent of police merely stated that the request for permission to speak was of necessity denied. No reason for the action was stated in this letter. The fear of an uprising was not made public until repeated requests had been sent the police department. A resolution was adopted in this meeting covering the selection of a committee and the necessary action to determine the true cause of this police action and to prevent a repetition of what one speaker referred to as. "willful throttling of the Constitutional right of free speech."

Two in Jail

Bernard Ades, chairman of the local I.L.D. Logan Circle Defense, in a statement to the AFRO, made known that two of the boys held in the killing of Officer Kennedy were in jail at the time of the assault on the officer.

Grafton Baylous and Leroy Brazier were lodged in jail on charges of disorderly conduct on the night of the killing, Mr. Ades said. When the killing was learned of, the charges of disorderly conduct were scratched off the books and a charge of murder entered against the boys.

Mr. Ades further stated, in connection with the holding of the boys that Joseph Jackson, one of the nine indicted, is less than 21 years of age, under the care of his grandmother. Jackson, the son of a veteran, receives a monthly stipend from his father's insurance. Through his grandmother, Jackson made application to the Veterans' Bureau for $500 to be used as lawyer's fees. The I.L.D. has chosen James A. O'Shea attorney, for the defense of the boy.

Money Denied

The Veterans' Bureau has denied the guardian of Jackson the amount named, Mr. Ades stated, and this action on the part of the Veterans Bureau leaves but one alternative for the interest of the accused: accept an attorney furnished by the opposing party. The Veterans' Bureau will not allow the withdrawal of monies to be used for an attorney's fee.

Jackson is being held under heavy bond. It is the intention of the local office of the I.L.D. to have this amount reduced.

Red Lawyers who Have Put Colored Jurors in Ever Maryland County

Afro-American 10-1-32 Baltimore, Md.

International Labor Defense lawyers who are defending Euel Lee at Towson, Maryland, on a murder charge. They told the bench that jim crowism existed "right here in the courtroom where colored people are forced to occupy certain seats." Left to right, David Levinson, Philadelphia; Errol White, Philadelphia; and Bernard Ades, Baltimore. Motions to have the trial removed to Baltimore were overruled This is Lee's second trial. The Court of Appeals having granted him a new trial on the ground that Negroes were barred from the jury. Immediately every Maryland County began using colored people on juries, some of them for the first time in history. The Red lawyers have signified their intention to appeal the Lee case a second time to a higher court on the ground that Negroes were barred from the grand jury which indicted him.

EUEL LEE FIGHT MOST IMPORTANT SINCE CIVIL WAR

Afro-American

Whole Issue of Jim Crow is Wrapped Up in Coming Trial.

10-1-32

I.L.D. LAWYERS WIDEN TERRAIN

Baltimore

Will Take this Angle

Up to Supreme Court.

BALTIMORE, Md.—

Can an American citizen obtain a fair and impartial trial in a community where his race is singled out and jim crowed in the court house in which he is tried, and where there is official physical evidence of prejudice against him?

This question, wrapped up in the Euel Lee case, may have to be answered by the Supreme Court of the United States, and therefore becomes one of the most important events of the racial struggle in this country since the Civil War.

Final Objective

When the case of Lee came up for trial at Towson last Monday Bernard Ades, David Levinson and Errol White, International Labor Defense attorneys defending the accused man, laid the foundation for the fight before the supreme court by three steps centered around the issue of racial segregation.

The first of these was to move that the indictment of Lee which was brought by the Worcester County grand jury be quashed on the grounds that colored jurors were barred from the panel.

The importance of this issue was indicted by the Maryland courts when, on Saturday, Judges John R. Pattison, Robert F. Duer and Joseph L. Bailey, for the first time in 40 years, included colored citizens in the panel drawn for jury service in that county.

The second was a motion asking that the case be postponed until the official segregation in the Towson court house be removed. This motion will be based on the grounds that under such conditions a colored man cannot receive a fair and impartial trial under the meaning of the Constitution of the United States.

Will Push Point

This point was also pushed to the degree that there was a challenge that the jim crow atmosphere, including barring of colored people from holding office, from hotels, from theatres and from other public places, produced a condition which nullified the 14th and 15th Amendments and therefore a condition under which a colored man is denied his constitution rights to a fair trial.

While these motions were made actively in the defense of Euel Lee, and are intended as a serious part of his defense, the fundamental objective of the International Labor Defens eis to focus their fire on segregation and the color bar throughout the United States. They will fight it out, they say, wherever a serious case comes up for trial in every section of the country where there is official segregation and jim crowism in court machinery.

Partial Victory

In a speech Sunday night, on the eve of the trial, Bernard Ades admitted frankly that the recent decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals was a partial one. While it had compelled some courts of Maryland to cease the deliberate barring of colored from jury panels, it had not compelled them to comply with the spirit of the law.

The tactics of the league will be to center the attention of the country and the world on the color bar question in the United States and to organize workers of all races in a direct fight against segregation. They point out to the white working element that they must join in this fight actively in order to bring about the unity necessary to secure for themselves a just share of the product of their toil and smash the exploiters of labor.

To the colored people they point out that their only salvation lies in combining with a group which is fighting for complete political, economic and social equality; that, until they are receiving equal salaries, living under equally prosperous conditions and enjoying all the benefits of American citizens, they will remain the tools of the exploiter.

An aid in this fight, they say, is a protest vote against the old party candidates, whom they point out, have condoned the American jim crow system, and therefore the lynch terror and racial persecution and proscription born of this jim crowism.

Taking jim crowism and segregation out of the legal machinery is just one step, they say, towards taking it out of American life.

'ancient custom' en masse. By refusing to sit in the jim crow section hereafter the Negro people will have passed another mile post on the road to equal rights for Negroes everywhere."

Towson Court Now Rules Jim Crow is Voluntary

Afro-American 10-1-32 Baltimore, Md.

That the Towson court which tried Euel Lee based one of its rulings on the assumption that jim crow regulations there were voluntary, is the interpretation which Bernard Ades, Lee's attorney, placed on it in a statement for the AFRO-AMERICAN, this week.

Says Mr. Ades:

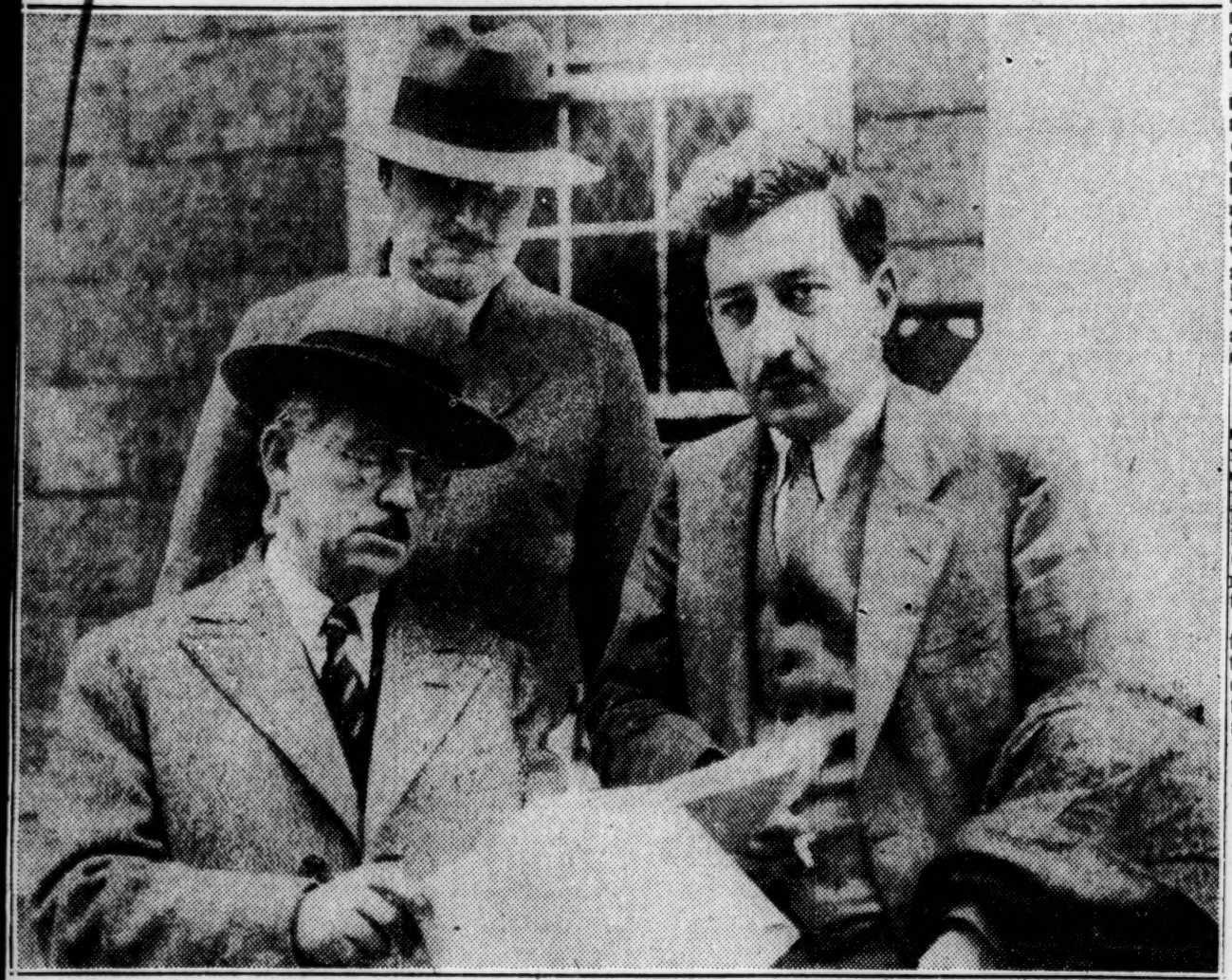
"At the second trial of Euel Lee at Towson, the defense presented a motion for a postponement on the theory that the jim-crowing of the spectators was an evidence of prejudice. The court admitted the segregation but overruled the motion. Later on in the proceedings when a prospective juror was questioned as to whether his opinion was influenced by the segregation the court would not allow him to answer but expressed its own opinion that the Negroes in the court room were not segregated.

"At the hearing of the motion for a new trial the court again dealt with this question. This time the court stated that the segregation in the court room was 'an ancient custom' that was purely voluntary and of which the Negroes themselves approved. The court further stated that if any Negro wished to sit in any other part of the court his right to do so would be enforced by the court.

"It is my opinion that the Negro people do not approve of segregation and that the action in Towson was not voluntary. However since the aroused interest of the people compelled the court to lay down the principle that the segregation is voluntary the Negro visitors to the Baltimore County court now have an opportunity to violate the

Red Lawyers who Have Put Colored Jurors in Ever Maryland County

Afro-American 10-1-32 Baltimore, Md.



International Labor Defense lawyers who are defending Euel Lee at Towson, Maryland, on a murder charge. They told the bench that jim crowism existed "right here in the courtroom where colored people are forced to occupy certain seats." Left to right, David Levinson, Philadelphia; Errol White, Philadelphia; and Bernard Ades, Baltimore. Motions to have the trial removed to Baltimore were overruled. This is Lee's second trial. The Court of Appeals having granted him a new trial on the ground that Negroes were barred from the jury. Immediately every Maryland County began using colored people on juries, some of them for the first time in history. The Red lawyers have signified their intention to appeal the Lee case a second time to a higher court on the ground that Negroes were barred from the grand jury which indicted him.

EUEL LEE FIGHT MOST IMPORTANT SINCE CIVIL WAR

Afro-American

Whole Issue of Jim Crow is Wrapped Up in Coming Trial.

10-1-32

I.L.D. LAWYERS WIDEN TERRAIN

Baltimore

Will Take this Angle Up to Supreme Court.

BALTIMORE, Md.—

Can an American citizen obtain a fair and impartial trial in a community where his race is singled out and jim crowed in the court house in which he is tried, and where there is official physical evidence of prejudice against him?

This question, wrapped up in the Euel Lee case, may have to be answered by the United States Supreme Court of the United States, and therefore becomes one of the most important events of the racial struggle in this country since the Civil War.

Final Objective

When the case of Lee came up for trial at Towson last Monday, Bernard Ades, David Levinson and Errol White, International Labor Defense attorneys defending the accused man, laid the foundation for the fight before the supreme court by three steps centered around the issue of racial segregation.

The first of these was to move that the indictment of Lee which was brought by the Worcester County grand jury be quashed on the grounds that colored jurors were barred from the panel.

The importance of this issue was indicted by the Maryland courts when, on Saturday, Judges John R. Pattison, Robert F. Duer and Joseph L. Bailey, for the first time in 40 years, included colored citizens in the panel drawn for jury service in that county.

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Killings-1932

PREJUDICE LOST CASE

Guardian

MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER GETS FREE WHEN LAWYER USES RACE PREJUDICE

4-14-32

Lansing, Mich., April 14, 1932—Because the argument of Edward J. Fallon, assistant prosecuting attorney of Oakland county, was "prejudicial and erroneous," the Michigan Supreme Court Monday granted a new trial to Alfred Hill, Pontiac resident. Hill was found guilty of second degree murder in the killing of Richard Coffee and sentenced 12½ to 25 years in the Michigan State prison at Jackson.

Boston, Mass.

"There was no reason to appeal to racial prejudice," said the Court.

FAST-MOVING LAW.

The swift and relentless manner in which Michigan law moved in dealing out punishment to the man responsible for the brutal killing of 17-year-old Evelyn Sanford, sets an example for the courts of every state in the Union.

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

Apr 16 1932

On Saturday this young school teacher, while proceeding to her home along a lonely road, was attacked, killed and her body buried.

Tuesday the guilty man was arrested and a confession obtained by members of the state police. On Thursday he was carried into court and 40 minutes later was on his way to state prison for life imprisonment in solitary confinement, the severest sentence possible under the laws of Michigan.

The prisoner was carried into court and started away to spend the balance of his life in prison through crowds which uttered no threats and committed no violence—because the courts of Michigan have established a record of meting out justice surely and promptly.

Because of the efficiency of the courts in this case a vicious criminal has been legally punished without loss of time; the state has been saved the expense and turmoil of a long-drawn-out trial; respect for the law increased among both the good citizens of the state and those who would commit crime.

That is the kind of court procedure that has made England the most law-abiding country in the world. In the United States, crime of every kind is rampant largely because of the long-drawn-out legal delays, ending all too frequently with those guilty of major crimes escaping penalty of any kind.

The country has no more serious problem than the speeding up and making more sure of its court procedure. That it can be accomplished is demonstrated by the manner in which the courts of Michigan go about their business.

UNJUSTLY SHOT BY COP, DIES

Courier

By CHICK COLEMAN

DETROIT, Sept. 8—"Quick trigger" police gunplay claimed its second victim within two weeks, Saturday, when Edward Crowell, 51, of 8930 Greely avenue, died in Receiving Hospital from a stomach bullet wound inflicted by officers Friday night in an alley in the rear of Crowell's home. The man was shot, when he failed to heed a command to throw up his arms by William V. Hinze, a white patrolman of the Bethune police station, who is a "cleanup squad" member. Hinze and two other officers were working in plain-clothes and according to Crowell's deathbed statement he believed them to be bandits.

A study of police and hospital records revealed that Crowell was fatally wounded at 9 p. m. and was taken to the Bethune police station before being removed to the hospital, miles away, almost an hour later. Following the shooting Hinze and his companions talked with a superior behind closed doors until almost midnight, when an attache of the prosecutor's offices finally made his appearance for their version of the shooting.

"The men stopped me in the alley and asked me where I lived. I pointed to my house and said 'there.' Then I turned and walked toward the house, because I thought they were probably holdup men. I put my hand under my coat to see if some change I had was still there. The men didn't tell me to put up my hands, at least I didn't hear them. I got hit from behind and they didn't say they would shoot," read the statement made by Crowell before his death. No weapon was found upon the man.

NEGRO HEAD OF RELIGIOUS CULT CONFESSES 'SACRIFICIAL' MURDER

Telegraph

Robert Harris Tells Police He Was 'Predestined' to Commit Ritual Crime

DETROIT, Nov. 20 (AP)—Police, investigating an apparent murder, Sunday elicited from the self-styled "king" of a weird cult a confession that he selected and killed a sacrificial victim on an improvised altar at his home.

11-21-32

The confession was attributed to Robert Harris, 44-year-old Negro. Harris said his "religious order" has a membership of about 100 Negroes in Detroit.

The victim was James J. Smith, 40, also a Negro. Harris admitted, police said, that he crushed Smith's head with the rear axle of an automobile, then stabbed him through the heart.

Macon, Ga.

Police, recalling the slaying of Benny Evangelista, leader of a fantastic religious cult, his wife and four children here in 1929, said they would take Harris' palm prints to determine whether he was the wielder of the ax that killed the Evangelistas. Detectives repeatedly have expressed the belief that the Evangelistas were killed by the head of some rival cult.

Harris' Confession

Harris was quoted by police as saying:

"The ninth hour of the twentieth day had come Sunday. It was predestined 1,500 years ago that at that hour I must make a human sacrifice to my gods. It must not be a member of the order of Islam, but some stranger—the first person I met after leaving my home."

That person, Harris said, was Smith, so he invited him into his home and crushed his head, "just to quiet him." The ritual then required, he said, that the body be placed on the altar and a sacrificial knife thrust through the heart.

An eight-inch knife was found thrust to the hilt in Smith's heart.

LOWELL, MASS.
COURIER-CITIZEN

NOV 28 1932

Those who always get mad at the so-called human race when Hindu and other Asiatic superstitions are shown on the screen by Mr. Newman or another traveler have also some reason to froth at the mouth as they read further disclosures of the Voodoo-Moslem cult which has misled Negroes of Detroit and perhaps other American cities. Sacrificial slayings, while they were common enough in antiquity, do not belong to this civilized land and age. They would be repudiated even by the Al Capones and Gerald Chapmans of our underworld who never murder any one to appease an angry god. There is a disposition among cosmopolitan Christians, as we have before noted, to fraternize with the other great religions of Asia in common defense against the Marxian materialism of this period. They usually include Islam in their entente cordiale, but one guesses that unless the religion of the Prophet shall distinctly and categorically disavow voodooism the chance of liberal Christian aid of its polygamous and other peculiar practices is still very remote.

IS KILLED IN RENT QUARREL

Telegraph

Courier

12/24/32

DETROIT, Dec. 22—A landlord, who shot and killed his white tenant, Leo Niles, 32, of 5148 Hastings street, in a quarrel over $5 in unpaid rent, is sought.

He is William Yarbough, 40, who resided in the Hastings street house.

Police said Niles and his alleged colored common-law wife, Eileen, 29, prepared to move Monday when Yarbough arrived and claimed they owed him $5. A quarrel ensued and Yarbough left. He returned in a few minutes and fired when Niles opened the door. The woman is held as a witness.

dole, or for the two judges he seems to dislike. By killing the substitute he may have believed his enemies would die, or would suffer a change of heart.

Harris may have sent Smith as a messenger to tell the gods not to visit any more trouble upon the Harris family, or, if they did not know of Harris' predicament, to tell them to come to his aid. Similar reasons in the not so distant past have moved men of all races and in all countries to immolate human victims upon altars that are preserved as curiosities today by their civilized descendants.

The veneer of Arabic names, Moslem phrases and Islamic incantations that color the affair do not change its essentially African nature. Instead of mumbo-jumbo Harris used Mohammedanisms, but the gods he sought to placate were juju in character. Curiously enough, the spread of a degenerate form of the Moslem faith among Detroit Negroes which the Harris case has brought to light, has a direct parallel in Africa. There the missionaries of Islam find their readiest converts among the fetish-worshiping tribesmen to whose primitive gods Harris apparently reverted after his conversion here.

DETROIT, MICH.
FREE PRESS

NOV 23 1932

HUMAN SACRIFICE

ONE of the startling features of the primitive piacular sacrifice performed in Detroit Sunday is the assertion of the Negro who officiated that his human victim was a willing offering. Yet far from being incredible, the statement lends authenticity to the rest of what he says. For religious suicide is, or was until recently, well known among the West African tribes who originated the fetishism that has become Voodoo in America.

When Robert Harris stabbed James J. Smith through the heart with a silver knife as Smith lay stretched on an improvised altar, the murderer may have had one or several reasons for what he did. He may have believed Smith had taken upon himself all the sins of Harris and the other onlookers. In that event Smith, by dying, would carry them all away. Or Harris may have used Smith as a substitute for the Welfare workers who kept him off the

Killings-1932

Mississippi.

2 WHITE SUSPECTS FREE; JAIL 4 NEGROES

NATCHEZ, Miss., Sept. 29—(ANP)—Sheriff C. P. Roberts of Adams county announced Tuesday that he had obtained sufficient evidence in connection with the murder of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, aged white recluse, to seek the indictment of four persons ,two white and two colored.

Actual murder of the aged woman, who was the daughter of a former American ambassador to Belgium, and who had renounced her high position in society to live the life of a hermit forty years ago, was blamed upon George Pearls, alias George Williams, a few days after the murder was discovered. Pearls was shot dead by an officer in Arkansas who sought to arrest him on another charge.

Later investigation implicated Richard Dana, queer scion of the famous Dana family of newspaper fame, and Miss Octavia Dockery his alleged housekeeper, the daughter of a Confederate general. It was disclosed that Dana and the Dockery woman, neighbors on an adjourning estate, had frequently quarreled with the slain woman over the trespassing of goats raised on the Dana place on Miss Merrill's plantation. These two white persons were taken into custody and held several days while a large number of Negroes were being rounded up.

Four of these colored persons are still in jail and it is the plan of the sheriff to seek indictments against two of them, Emily Burns and her brother, known as Doc Burns. It is reported that she has confessed that she was implicated in the crime and has named several others, including Dana, who played roles in the grim real life tragedy.

The grand jury is not to convene until November 14th when the indictments will be sought.

While the Negroes languish in jail, the white suspects are free on their own recognizance, and Dana a former musician, gives paid concerts at his home, to which special trains are run over the week end Efforts have also been made to arrange for broadcasting on a large scale for him.

NATCHEZ SLAYING TO BE REOPENED

Lengthy Evidence In Death Of Wealthy Recluse Given To Grand Jury.

NATCHEZ, MISS., Nov. 14.—(AP)—Charged by Presiding Judge R. L. Corban to make "a full investigation of murder cases," the Adams County Grand Jury went into session here today scheduled to reopen the inquiry into the mysterious slaying of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, wealthy recluse and a daughter of a former United States minister to Beligum, who was shot and killed at her plantation home near here last August.

Judge Corban made no direct reference to the Merrill case in his charge to the jury, but county officials insisted that a mass of evidence gathered in the lengthy investigation into the woman's death was ready for presentation to the jurors.

Sheriff C. P. Roberts, who was in charge of the investigation, asserted he was "confident" that the evidence gathered was sufficient to return indictments.

Officers have expressed the opinion that Miss Merrill was actually shot and killed in her home by George Pearles, negro, who was later killed in resisting arrest at Pine Bluff, Ark. Numerous others were implicated, however, and formal charges of murder were filed against Richard H. C. Dana and Miss Octavia Dockery, aristocratic eccentrics living on a farm adjoining the Merrill estate, who are at liberty on their own recognizance.

Several negroes have also been arrested and held in connection with the case, including Emily Burns, who officers said made a series of confessions outlining a plot to rob the Merrill home and implicating Miss Dockery, Dana, Edgar Newell, negro undertaker, and herself.

The Grand Jury meeting today was also slated to take up the slaying of Will Harvey, sixth negro train fireman to be shot and killed in this section in the last few months.

Officers who investigated an alleged systematic attempt to frighten negro train workers from their jobs filed charges against Charles Coon, R. Middleton and J. Campbell, white men, in connection with Harvey's death. The negro was shot down on a street here in gangster fashion by a group of men a slow moving automobile.

MISSISSIPPI GRAND JURY TO PROBE TWO FAMOUS DEATHS

NATCHEZ, Miss., Nov. 3—(CNS)—The Adams county grand jury is facing probes of national interest. The first is the murder of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, an eccentric recluse, who was the daughter of the former minister to Belgium. George Pearles, colored, now dead, is alleged to have killed her and police are now holding Emily Burns, a colored woman, whom they allege was an accessory. Affidavits charging two white persons with the crime are also pending.

The second probe that will be conducted by the Adams County Grand Jury concerns the death of Will Harvey, colored, former fireman for the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad company. Charles Coon, a white fireman is being held pending the action of the grand jury in connection with the case.

NEGRO ADMITS CRIME AS TRAP IS SPRUNG

Columbus Barton Dies Confessing to Thigpin Murder.

CLEVELAND, Miss., Nov. 25.—Columbus Barton, negro farm hand, was hanged here today for the murder of W. G. Thigpen, planter, last Aug. 6.

He mounted the scaffold at 11:08 a.m., the trap was sprung at 11:13, and he was pronounced dead at 11:29, his neck having been broken by the fall.

He sent to press representatives a lengthy statement, saying:

"I am now confessing before God and man that I am really guilty of my crime, but am not guilty of what the colored woman testified against me. I specially ask for fried fish for my breakfast Friday. Before I leave this world, that being the last thing Christ ate before He ascended to his Father on high.

"I ask no special clothes to be buried in. I want the county to bury me just as they see fit. I thank the sheriff for his kindness, and Mr. W. B. Alexander for his efforts to save my life."

Shot Down In Road.

Thigpen was shot down after he had surprised Barton in Thigpen's cornfield. The planter ordered Barton to walk ahead down the road to be placed under arrest and when the negro discovered that Thigpin was not armed he pulled his own pistol and shot Thigpin through the head and chest.

The planter's body was found a short time later by friends who missed him. It had been dragged into some weeds beside the road.

Until today Barton had stoutly maintained his innocence, and his conviction was carried to the state supreme court, where the death sentence was confirmed last Monday. The negro woman was sentenced to life for helping Barton drag the body from the road.

R. B. Thigpin of Carthage, and J. C. Thigpin of Austin, Texas, brothers of the murdered man, and W. G. Thigpin Jr., son, witnessed the execution. The body was interred in the potter's field.

MISSISSIPPI NEGRO HANGED FOR MURDER

CLEVELAND, Miss., Nov. 25.—(AP) Columbus Barton, negro, was hanged today in the courthouse yard at Cleveland for the murder of William G. Trigpen, a farmer, on September 15 of last year.

The trap was sprung at 11:14 o'clock and the negro was pronounced dead at 11:15 o'clock.

DRY RAIDERS KIEL MISSISSIPPI NEGRO

COLUMBUS, Miss., Nov. 22.—(AP) J. B. Washington, 40, negro, was killed last night during a raid on a still. Deputy Sheriffs J. W. Davis and S. H. Hall of Pickens county, Alabama reported today. The shooting took place near Gordo, Ala., east of Columbus, and occurred the officer said when Washington reached for an ax when ordered to surrender.

NEGRO KILLED IN RAID.

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The shooting took place near Gordo, Ala., east of Columbus, and occurred, the officers said, when Washington reached for an axe when ordered to surrender.

NEGRO'S FATE SEALED WHEN WHITE BOY IS FOUND SANE

HATTIESBURG, Miss., Dec. 1.—(ANP)—As a result of the finding that Paul Wexler, 19 year old white youth, is sane and must hang two days before Christmas for the murder of J. L. Odom, white filling station proprietor, Andrew Prince, alleged accomplice of Wexler will be executed too.

The boys were charged jointly with the crime, but several efforts were made to save the white boy's life and execute Prince. Gov. Conner ruled that if the life of one was spared, the life of the other would be too.

Attorneys for Wexler entered an insanity plea, but specialists employed to examine him stated that he was sane and Judge W. J. Peck sentenced him to execution, thus sealing the fate of Prince also.

WHITE MAN CONVICTED OF KILLING NEGRO

Hattiesburg, Miss. (CNS).—After a three-days' trial, J. P. Lee, a white man, of Pistol Ridge, was convicted of murdering Leroy Ward, a Negro. According to the State, Lee shot Ward following a despute over whiskey. Lee was charged with killing Ward as the latter was leaving the former's house.

In an attempt to save her husband, Mrs. Lee sprang a surprise by testifying that she had fired shots at a group of Negroes on the night of the alleged disturbance, Sept. 24, in front of her home when Ward was slain. She also said Lee was sleeping at the time and was awakened by the report of the shots.

The jury was unable to agree on the degree of punishment. The verdict automatically fixed scentence at life imprisonment.

Judge W. J. Pack immediately summoned Lee to the bar for sentence. Asked whether he had anything to say, Lee declared:

"I have been misjudged, for I am innocent. These twelve men have judged me wrong and I ask the mercy of the court."

Judge Pack then pronounced the life sentence.

Trial of Lee began in circuit court Thanksgiving Day, the first day being devoted to selecting a jury. Two days were consumed in taking of evidence, the case going to the jury last Saturday afternoon. The State asked the death penalty.

6 VICTIMS OF MISSISSIPPI MURDER RING

Negroes Shot In Cold Blood By White Unemployed Over Dozen Wounded

Indictment Followed Arousing Of Better Class Sentiment

BROOKHAVEN, Miss—(ANP)—After being indicted and arraigned last Wednesday, M. V. Varnado, alleged trigger man in the paid murder ring which instituted a reign of terror among Negro firemen on the Illinois Central railroad, pleaded guilty here in the Circuit court Thursday to a charge of attempted murder and will be sentenced later.

He was indicted in connection with the attempt to kill Ernest Clark, a colored fireman, as he climbed to the top of the engine tender at a water spout north of Brookhaven.

Indicted with Varnado, was Matt Lewis of McComb, who pleaded not guilty to the charge and is to be tried later.

Admitted Part

In a statement after his arrest, Lewis is reported to have admitted he drove Varnado to the spot and called Clark into view so that the "trigger man" could go into action.

The indictment of these two men and the guilty plea of Varnado, marked the first progressive step of police and railroad authorities to end the long series of ambuscades which has resulted in the death of six Negro firemen and the wounding and beating of a dozen others.

The attacks grew out of the desire of white men to seize the jobs which the Negroes held. At one time, the whites sought the work and, by agreement, were given 50 per cent of the jobs.

This was not enough to satisfy them, however, and they began to get the colored men out of the way by killing them although the railroad company had agreed to hire no more Negroes to fill the place of Negroes who died, quit or were discharged.

Three other white men, Reedy Lee and Emmett Smith in Jackson, and Charles Miller, are to be tried in connection with the Clark attempted murder.

Seize Murder Suspect

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(ANP)—B. G Gurner, white fireman on the Illinois Central railroad, has been arrested and sent to Bolivar, Tenn., in connection with charges growing out of the shooting to death on June 6 of Clarence Booker, a Negro fireman. Gurner is reported to have been indicted on a murder charge.

NEGRO'S CONFESSION READ IN NATCHEZ CASE

State Weaves Web Around Woman as Merrill Slayer.

BY NED SMITH

Special Cable to The Commercial Appeal.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Nov. 26.—With attorneys for the defense appointed by the court bitterly contesting all evidence introduced by the state relative to the confessions of Emily Burns, negro woman, charged with having murdered Miss Jane Surget Merrill, wealthy recluse, the trial advanced to its last stages tonight.

When the trial was resumed this morning, John R. Lamkin, president of the Adams County board of supervisors, who served as a special deputy sheriff during the investigation, told of having gone to Pine Bluff, Ark., where the clothing and gun of George Pearls were turned over to him by Robert Henslee, officer, who slew the negro when he resisted arrest.

The witness also told of the confessions made by Emily Burns in which she declared that Miss Merrill had been killed by Pearls, and how R. H. C. Dana, Miss Octavia Dockery, Edgar Newell, a negro undertaker, and herself, had helped remove the body and throw it in a thicket.

Similar testimony regarding the confessions was given by Walter P. Abbott, chancery clerk, who said that in addition to hearing the admissions of the Burns woman he had been present when she re-enacted the murder at the Merrill home and pointed out the exact place where the body of Miss Merrill had been placed, the room in which the murder was committed, the point where she had thrown a lamp and other details.

A demonstration in ballistics was given by Maurice B. O'Neil, chief of the Bureau of Identification of the New Orleans police department, when he was called to the stand.

After stating that bullets given him by Sheriff C. P. Roberts which were taken from the walls of the room where Miss Merrill had been slain had been fired from the gun identified as the one taken from Pearls, Mr. O'Neil set up microscopic equipment in the courtroom so that each juror could make a comparison of bullets in evidence.

Mr. O'Neil was followed by Lauren Farris, deputy sheriff and jailer, who told of having intercepted a letter that Emily Burns endeavored to smuggle out of jail to a woman named Annie Reed in which Emily asked that the clothes of Pearls and his letters to her be removed from her house before they were discovered by officers.

At the conclusion of the testimony of Jenkins late today, the state announced that it would rest.

Deputy Is Killed By Negro Prisoner

GREENVILLE, Miss., Dec. 18 (AP) W. J. C. Davis, 45, town marshal and deputy sheriff of Glen Allan, Miss., was shot and killed Sunday by Cleve Kaiser, 25-year-old Negro farm laborer whom he sought to arrest for creating a disturbance in the Negro section of Glenn Allan, 35 miles south of here.

Davis had placed handcuffs on one of the Negro's wrists when he drew a pistol and fired twice, the first shot killing the marshal.

Kaiser fled and Sunday night was the object of a search by a posse of county officers and more than a score of citizens.

MISSISSIPPIAN GUILTY IN MURDER OF NEGRO

HATTIESBURG, Miss., Nov. 28.—(AP)—J. P. Lee, 31, resident of Pistol Ridge, was found guilty by a circuit court jury today of the murder of Leroy Ward, negro. The jury deliberated 41 hours and were unable to agree on the degree of punishment and their verdict automatically fixed sentence at life imprisonment.

Lee was charged with killing Ward as the latter was leaving Lee's house on the night of September 24. According to the state, Lee shot Ward following a dispute over whisky.

Death Sought For Man Held In Negro's Death

HATTIESBURG, MISS., Nov. 25—(AP)—State attorneys said today they would ask the death penalty as J. P. Lee, white resident of Pistol Ridge community, went on trial for the slaying of Leroy Ward, negro, fatally shot in a dispute alleged to have arisen over possession of whisky.

Floyd Dunstan, father-in-law of the victim, was among the first State witnesses called and accused Lee of shooting the negro.

DEPUTY SHERIFF SLAIN BY MISSISSIPPI NEGRO

GREENVILLE, Miss., Dec. 18.—(AP)—W. J. C. Davis, 45, town marshal and deputy sheriff of Glenn Allan, Miss., was shot through the heart and instantly killed this afternoon by Cleve Kaiser, 25-year-old negro farm laborer whom he sought to arrest for creating a disturbance in the negro section of Glenn Allan 35 miles south of here.

MISSISSIPPI NEGRO SOUGHT IN SLAYING

GREENVILLE, Miss., Dec. 19.—(AP)—A posse of officers and citizens led by bloodhounds hunted the Delta country today for Cleve Raiser, 25-year-old negro, who shot and killed Town Marshal W. J. C. Davis, 45, of Glen Allan, as the officer tried to arrest him.

Aroused Over Murder, Negro Posse Apprehends Member of Their Race

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 27.—Incensed by a crime committed by a member of their own race, negroes south of Clarksdale organized a posse and captured Will Doolittle, who shot and killed Jim Reede, 75-year-old negro. The shooting occurred in Reede's home. It is alleged that the old negro tried to induce Doolittle, who was drunk, to retire. The negro grew angry, pulled his gun and fired. As Reede dropped dead, Doolittle escaped. A posse was organized and the negro was captured and turned over to Sheriff L. A. Ross.

Killings-1932

5 CONFESS PLOT AGAINST FIREMEN

Constitution

'Reign of Terror" Bared in Shooting of Negro Trainmen in Louisiana.

8-24-32

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 23.—(AP)—A systematic and highly organized 'reign of terror" mysteriously but well financed to frighten negro railway firemen off their jobs, was uncovered here today when officers announced that five men held for shooting on negro firemen had confessed to participation in the plot.

The five confessed, officers said, to a series of non-fatal shootings planned to intimidate the negroes. Six negro train firemen have been killed in the Mississippi-Louisiana territory in recent months, most of them being shot under cover of darkness at the windows of their cabs, but none of the five men who confessed to participating in the alleged systematic attacks were implicated in the fatalities, authorities said.

Four of the five men held are former employes of the Illinois Central railroad and officers reported their confessions dealt with non-fatal shootings of five negro firemen in the Louisiana division of that road. The prisoners asserted a "pool" had been formed by unidentified persons to pay gunmen for the attacks at a rate ranging from $25 to $125, "depending on the result."

Those held are M. F. Varnado, of McComb, alleged "trigger man" of the group, in jail at Brookhaven; Reedy Lee and Emmett Smith, of McComb, held in jail here; Charles J. Miller, McComb, held at Magnolia and J. Matt Lewis, McComb, held at Memphis.

Varnado, Lee, and Miller are charged with shooting and attempting to murder three negro firemen in the McComb railroad yards in the months of December, February and March. The three negroes were wounded, but not fatally.

Lee also is charged jointly with Smith with attempting to kill a negro fireman in Jackson.

Varnado, Lewis and Miller are charged with a shooting at Brookhaven.

All are tentatively scheduled to be tried in the Fall term of court.

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Idle Men Start Reign Of Terror

8-24-32

Former Railroaders Admit Shooting Negro Firemen To Scare Them Off Jobs

JACKSON, MISS., Aug. 23.—(AP)—A systematic and highly organized "reign of terror" mysterously but well-financed to frighten negro railway firemen off their jobs was uncovered here today when officers announced that five men held for shooting on negro firemen had confessed to participation in the plot.

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NEGROES AIDED AUTHORITIES IN MERRILL MURDER

The Merrill murder of, or near Natchez, Miss., was a most brutal one. A crime which at once gains the full sympathy of all responsible law-abiding citizens both white and black for the victim of such cold blooded perpetrator or perpetrators.

The better element of the American Negro citizenry is for law and order, does not go in for this crime craze which seems to be running wild from one end of Continental United States to the other, nor does it condone criminal acts committed by members of that citizenry.

Therefore, every decent, intelligent Negro, and particularly those of Mississippi, was very regretably astonished when it was alleged that Negroes were not only linked with the murder, but actually committed the deed.

All intelligent Negroes know that it is the hoodlum class of their group that go in for such crimes and not the better element. The day has come when all fairminded white people are willing to recognize this fact and not brand the entire race as criminally minded just because of what one or a few irresponsible Negro hoodlums may do.

Thrifty, intelligent, law-abiding Negroes are far from trying to cloak criminals, are just as ready to expose them, black or white, as are the better element of white people. Neither do Negroes condemn the entire white race for crimes committed by the hoodlum class of that race.

Almost as soon as the Merrill murder was committed, Negroes of or near Natchez came forward without delay and furnished the authorities with any information they considered helpful to those who were trying to solve the murder; and which information went a long way towards placing the guilt where it belongs.

The latest reported confession made by Emily Burns, boarding house keeper, linking other Negroes besides George "Pearles" with the crime, as well as Dana and Miss Dockery, despite the belief in the innocence of the latter two, because of discrepancies in her story of the murder as to how, when and by whom it was committed, is causing many persons to believe that she is an irresponsible individual, capable of being persuaded to make the confession by some person or persons who were connected with the murder and afraid of yet being discovered, or that she may for the sake of the thrill that publicity gives those who love it, has come forward and while incriminating herself as an accomplice, is willing to cause others, innocent of the crime, to become implicated. Thousands of such irresponsible white and black persons have been known to come forward with a most convincing story bearing upon crime and when properly investigated could not be satisfactorily corroborated.

The authorities of Natchez are to be complimented upon the painstaking manner in which they have handled this case.

Negroes in connection therewith have been treated most humanely. A careful check up on all concerned was made from the first so that no one white or black would be wrongfully charged.

Up to the 29th of August, no charges had been made against any of the several Negroes that have been arrested. Every precaution was taken by the authorities from the first to forestall any adverse demonstration against white or black persons under arrest.

FOUR NEGROES KILLED IN HUNT FOR SLAYER

Commercial Appeal

But Jess Williams, Negro Desperado, Still At Large.

10-18-32

POSSE KEEPS ON TRAIL

Memphis

Three Other Senatobia Negroes Reported Slain—Four Meet Death After Firing At Posse From Negro Cabin.

Special to The Commercial Appeal.

SENATOBIA, Miss., Oct. 17.—Four negroes are known to be dead, three others are reported slain and several other persons have been injured, one of them a posseman, since 2 a.m. today during the intensive search for Jess Williams, negro slayer of Jeff W. Williams, deputy and son of Sheriff Williams, Sunday afternoon.

Late tonight Jess Williams, wounded in his right leg by a shotgun charge accidentally inflicted by his son, had completely covered his tracks from the weary band of 100 men led by Dr. R. D. Williams, the sheriff's brother, from Marked Tree, Ark., and his exact whereabouts were not known.

Horse Found Near Canal.

His horse, with a bloody saddle, was found near Arkabutla Canal, three miles from Senatobia, after, it was reported by other citizens, that another negro had been shot from the horse while it was in full flight after being abandoned by Williams and picked up by the second negro.

Perry Poe, news writer of Coldwater, who visited the area where the deputy was shot said this afternoon that he had viewed the four members of Judge Crawford's family killed by the posse when they resisted efforts of the searchers to enter their home. Poe also said he was informed that one negro had been shot from Williams' horse when it bolted and that two others had been killed in a field as they showed fight while being questioned.

Crawford's two sons and another negro, John Scott, killed by the posse's fusillade which raked the Crawford home at 2 a.m. today after someone had fired from within and wounded Max Floyd of Strayhorn community in the head. Floyd's scalp was laid open by a bullet, but he was not seriously injured. Crawford's wife and daughter were also wounded.

Funeral For Victim.

Efforts to communicate with Dr. Williams and the posse tonight were futile.

Funeral services for Deputy Jeff Williams, the negro's victim, were held this afternoon from the Methodist Church here, attended by hundreds of friends and relatives from half a dozen counties.

He was killed Sunday afternoon when Jess Williams seized the deputy's pistol after he had placed the negro under arrest on a charge of robbing another negro and had started to search him. The negro fired several times at the deputy, who started running down the road. At this juncture, Bee Williams, 16-year-old son of the negro, fired once with a shotgun at the deputy, but the charge struck the negro desperado in the leg.

He returned, got his horse and another pistol and rode by a negro church on the road, telling members of the congregation that he had killed an officer. The afternoon church meeting broke up in disorder as the negroes fled to their homes. Thereafter all trace of Jess Williams was lost for hours.

Finds Son's Body.

Meantime, other negroes informed the sheriff, who was a short distance away on another official errand, and he brought his son's body back to Senatobia. Citizens meantime organized the search, but not until after the pitched battle at the Crawford home early today was any trace found of the fleeing negro.

Bloodhounds from Clarksdale failed to find a trail. The negro is believed to be hiding in the bottoms of the Arkabutla Canal.

No request has been made for national guardsmen, officers said here tonight.

District Attorney M. H. Thompson, who said that he had been informed that only two negroes were dead, said he would launch an investigation.

Three Negroes Killed By Mississippi Posse

Commercial Appeal

10-18-32

SENATOBIA, Miss., Oct. 17—(AP)—Milton Thompson, prosecuting attorney of this district, today ordered an official investigation into the slaying of three negroes and the probably fatal wounding of two others by a posse hunting the alleged slayer of Deputy Sheriff Jesse Williams, Crawford and his sons were killed and two of his sons were arrested. The Crawford woman had the wounded son was

The three negroes were slain last night, Thompson said, by the posse hunting another negro, Jesse Williams, 45, after the slaying of the officer the Sunday afternoon. Deputy Williams was fired from the house, one bullet the son of Sheriff A. C. Williams, was slain with his own pistol after slightly wounding Deputy Sheriff Max Lloyd. When the posse returned the

POSSE SEEKING NEGRO WHO KILLED DEPUTY

Jeff Walker Williams, 23, Slain Near Senatobia.

SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD

Slayer Snatches Officer's Gun and Empties Magazine at Him—Was Being Arrested as Robbery Suspect.

Special to The Commercial Appeal.

SENATOBIA, Miss., Oct. 16.—A posse of 50 determined men beat the woods in southwest Tate County tonight in search of Jesse Williams, 45-year-old negro, who shot and killed Deputy Jeff Walker Williams, 23, this afternoon at 2 o'clock, seven miles southwest of here, as the officer sought to arrest him as a suspect in a robbery which occurred in the community last night. Sheriff C. A. Williams, father of the slain youth, is leading the posse.

Williams was slain with his own pistol. He had gone alone to the negro's house to arrest him and was intending to return the prisoner to face Sheriff Williams and another deputy, John W. Whalen, who were conducting an investigation a few miles away, near what is known as Salem church.

Youth Shot Through Head.

The negro was carried to the deputy's car, but on entering, snatched the officer's gun and began shooting. Backing away, he emptied the magazine and then fled. Williams died instantly as a bullet went through his head.

His body was found a short time later by his father and Deputy Whalen, who were informed of the slaying by neighboring negroes. Before the officers arrived the slayer had returned to his home, obtained another pistol and left. His wife and daughter, who were placed in jail here, declared that they did not know in which direction he fled, adding that Williams only told them that "I am leaving."

Breaks Up Negro Meeting.

A short time later, it was learned, the negro broke up a church meting nearby when he rode up to the building on his horse, dismounted, entered the church and calmly informed the negro congregation that he had just killed a man. The pastor stopped his sermon and the congregation disbanded immediately.

Williams then left and his horse was found an hour later two miles away to the west.

The officers were investigating a robbery which occurred last night in the community. When they reached the place they separated and it was then that young Williams went to the negro's home.

A posse was organized here a few hours after the slaying and led by Sheriff Williams armed themselves with guns and rifles. They left here in automobiles and tonight were conducting an exhaustive search in the hilly country adjacent the slayer's home. Bloodhounds are being sent from Clarksdale.

Young Williams was widely known in Tate County. He was appointed deputy after his father assumed office last January.

A Bad Case Made Worse

In Senatobia, Miss., a town on the Illinois Central from Memphis south to Jackson, the state capital, a young deputy sheriff went out to arrest a middle-aged Negro. The Negro was no doubt inflamed with whisky or cocaine. He took the gun away from the young deputy and shot him to death with it. Then he fled.

It was a case for officers of the law to work on and upon which they should have exercised their utmost vigilance and diligence. It was murder in cold blood and the Negro would undoubtedly have hanged for it. Instead of leaving the case to the due process of law, a posse organized itself into a mob and went to look for the Negro. At the home of one of his relatives, they shot down several Negroes. A deputy sheriff says three Negroes were killed and others were shot. A reporter says he saw four bodies and that at least two others were wounded. At any rate, at least three were killed, some of them women.

Members of the mob give no reason for killing the other Negroes. They had none, it is safe to presume in the light of mob history. Their passions were inflamed; their savage instincts aroused. An eye for an eye and three Negroes for every white man came to the surface. It was not a case in which they could even plead the honor of a white woman. White supremacy was not involved. No principle was involved, only white insane anger.

We can not call ourselves civilized as long as such things occur.

4 Negroes Killed, 2 Wounded by White Posse in Mississipp

SENATOBIA, MISS.—The cold blooded slaying of 4 Negroes and the wounding of a man and a woman by a posse of white men on Sunday night, resulted Monday in an order for an official investigation of the shooting. The posse was searching for the slayer of Deputy Sheriff Jeff Walker Williams who was killed when he went to the home of a Negro to question a woman.

The victims of the possemen's bullets were Judge Crawford and two of his sons and a son-in-law, fatally shot, and his wife, Annie Crawford and another son who may die from their wounds.

The posse surrounded the home of the Crawford's about midnight and when the family resisted a search of the house, the possemen fired into the house kiling and wounding the occupants.

The investigation was ordered by Prosecutor Milton Thompson of this district.

MURDER CONVICTIONS FEW IN MISSISSIPPI

Statistics Reveal Two Out of Three Go Free.

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 30.—Mississippi statistics, issued by Dr. R. N. Whitfield, director of the state bureau of vital statistics, reveal that slayers in Mississippi have two out of three chances to go free and one out of 100 to be hanged.

During the past 16 years, ending January 1, 1932, 6,415 homicides were reported to the Mississippi State Board of Health, an average of 401 per year. During this period, the population of the state increased 13 1-2 per cent while the homicides increased 66 per cent. From the low level in 1916, to the peak recorded in 1930, the increase in homicides was 124 per cent.

2,190 Sentenced.

"During the past 16 years, ending July 1, 1932, according to Mississippi penitentiary records, 1,107 individuals were sentenced to the pen for manslaughter and 1,083 for murder," Dr. Whitfield said. "During the same period about 60 individuals have been legally hung for murder.

"Thus, out of 6,400 killers in the state, 2,250 killers have peen punished, more or less, and 4,100 others escaped punishment altogether," he said.

"What became of the 2,190 sentenced to the penitentiary for manslaughter and murder during the past 16 years?

"The manslaughter cases were sentenced to serve an average term of nine years and eight months. About 150 permanently escaped or died; 350 were pardoned after serving an average of three years and six months and about 37 are free as a result of suspensions," his statement continued.

"Some served out their sentences.

"Of the 1,083 conviceted of murder and sent up for life, 541 (just half), were pardoned after serving an average of seven and half years; 297 escaped or died, and 74 are free as a result of suspensions, leaving a balance of 171.

"This balance, plus those who are yet serving their incarceration before pardon, escape or death, will make the present murder population in the state penitentiary."

Answers from questionaires sent out by Dr Whitfield to all the circuit clerks in the state asking for informaton relative to trials for manslaughter and murder, 22 counties reported no legal executions since January 1, 1900—a period of 32 years—and during this period they had approximately 2,000 homicides. Fourteen counties reported one execution each during the 32 years, while 16 reported two executions each.

Killings-1932

Mississippi.

IT'S ALL VERY CONFUSING

"NEGRO-DID-IT-CRIMES" have often been proved the dishonest charges of accusers who would for various reasons fasten an offense on innocent people of a race historically handicapped in disproving such accusations, or else have turned out to be the last resort of baffled police who must prove their efficiency by arresting and convicting somebody. Where such persons falsely accused have won their freedom it has been because they were alive and a justice-loving press and public went to their rescue.

We are now treated with the unusual spectacle of a heinous murder in Mississippi of a former white belle being laid to a Negro who is dead. Some people still cherish the belief that "dead men tell no tales," but it is to be hoped that pointing the finger of guilt at this forever silenced suspect will not deter Mississippi officials from probing the case to an unquestionably conclusive climax. Under the circumstances, we realize that is a rather far-fetched hope.

Before she shut herself up in her Natchez plantation 40 years ago, Miss Jane Surget ("Miss Jennie") Merrill, spinster daughter of a one-time U. S. Minister to Belgium, was widely reputed for good looks and charm. About three weeks ago she emerged from her seclusion—a bullet ridden corpse. Her murder stirred old memories among septaugenarians in Natchez and gave romantics of the southern white press an opportunity to write floridly about departed glories.

Early clues pointed to two white neighbors of Miss Merrill's—scraggly, bearded Richard Dana, 61, and Miss Octavia Dockery, 60, daughter of a Confederate brigadier. Mentally unbalanced, Dana was legally declared incompetent and made a ward of Miss Dockery. He and she frequently quarreled with Miss Merrill because their livestock, which overran their down-at-the-heels plantation, got onto her property.

Their feuds have overflowed into the courts. Fingerprints of both of them were found in the dead woman's house, although they would not have been regarded as likely social visitors. Another white person, Duncan Minor, a supposed former sweetheart of the victim, was left the deceased woman's $175,000 estate, but suddenly disclaimed his intention of taking any part of it and hired a private detective to help solve the crime.

The French say "Cherchez la femme"—find the woman. Mississippi and other sections of the south substitute as a police crime theory, "find the 'nigger'"—and finding him often allows the real culprit to escape. In this case, fingerprint evidence led to the arrest of Miss Dockery and Dana, while bloodhounds put on the trail went to the home of Tom Ferguson, a white man.

Instead of sensibly investigating all angles and suspects impartially, Mississippi police rounded up all possible Negroes, third-degreed them into inconsistencies and "confessions," and fastened the guilt on them. The latest turn in the case is the "confession" of a Negro woman which involves two colored men, one of them George Pearles, who was killed by Pine Bluff, Ark. police "while resisting arrest."

Meanwhile, all the evidence piled up against Dana and Miss Dockery by fingerprint experts and a probe of motives seemingly hamen been cast into the muddy Mississippi River, a the two aged eccentrics have been freed. It's all very confusing, really—until you realize how simple a crime can sometimes be "solved" by just saying "a 'nigger' done it."

Reign Of Terror Investigators Continue To Gather Evidence

JACKSON, Miss.—Although five white men have been arrested and have allegedly confessed complicity in the reign of terror that claimed the lives of six colored railway firemen and resulted in the serious wounding of more than a dozen others, several important points in the case still puzzle authorities who have been investigating the crimes.

Meanwhile, those arrested are being held under bonds ranging from $1,000 to over $26,000. They are scheduled to be tried at the fall term of court.

The five were arrested in various parts of the state and in Memphis and the confessions police reported they had made last week linked them to a paid murder plot hatched to get rid of Negro firemen on the Illinois Central Railroad so that white men could get their jobs.

Disregard Agreement

At one time, nearly all the Illinois Central firemen in this region were colored, but as economic conditions grew tight, unemployed whites brought pressure to bear to force the company to give whites the engineer and firemen jobs too.

An agreement was reached in which the whites and Negroes were allowed fifty per cent of the jobs each. But the whites were unwilling to abide by this agreement. They wanted all the Negroes fired. When the company refused to accede to such a demand, the whites conspired to do away with the black workers, even though the company promised that if Negroes were allowed to die natural deaths they would not be replaced by Negroes, thereby creating a plan for eventual one hundred per cent occupancy of the jobs by whites.

Searching Investigation

Murder of some Negro firemen and whippings administered to others did not frighten Negroes off the jobs. The railroad company began a searching investigation to discover the men behind the reign of bloodshed. The first positive step was made seven weeks ago when a white man was indicted for shooting a colored fireman to death from ambush on one of the streets of Natchez.

When railroad inspectors and police officials arrested the five white men, they implicated themselves, with cushioned alibis, in the murder conspiracy. These men are: J. Matt Lewis, McComb, Miss., who was held in Memphis, Tenn., and questioned there; M. F. Varnado, of McComb, alleged "trigger" man; Emmett Smith, McComb, Miss., held at Brookhaven, with Varnado; Reedy Lee, of McComb held in prison here and Charles J. Miller, of McComb, arrested at Magnolia.

Confusing Claims

They admit playing a part in the deadly business, but discliam any knowledge of the persons who agreed to pay them from $25 to $125 for their attacks, depending on the success achieved, $25 for slight maiming and $125 for a "stone dead." They admit that they were being paid and that they received some money, but don't know where it came from.

Further, they all violently insist that they were not party to any of the tragic excursions which resulted in death for Negro firemen.

The most complete confession was obtained from James Matt Lewis who, with three others, had formerly been employed as a fireman. Lewis made his confession in Memphis. It was reported in variously in the daily newspapers. In one account Lewis is reported to have stated that hunger of himself, his wife and children forced him to take part in a plot to kill Ernest Clark, a colored fireman, on August 9.

Says He Needed Money

"There's no limit to which a man will go if his wife and babies are starving," Lewis is reported to have commented. "I never killed a man in my life. I am a weak man, though I was led into the plot."

According to the Commercial Appeal, Lewis stated that he was approached several months ago and asked if he would not like to pick up some money and get his job back by "getting rid" of some of the Negro firemen.

"I didn't pay any attention to the offers then," he asserted. When his money ran out ond he was approached again, he agreed to participate in the attempted killing. This was the attack on Ernest Clark.

Lewis' job was to drive Varnado the trigger man, also a former I. C. fireman, from McComb to Brookhaven, and call the fireman out of the cab. If he was a Negro, Varnado was to do the killing.

Fired on Fireman

Lee introduced Lewis to Varnado and turned his car over to them. They drove to Brookhaven and Lewis called to the fireman and discovered he was a Negro. When Clark got on top of the tank, Varnado fired three times at him with an automatic shotgun. Clark fell and Lewis and Varnado rushed back to McComb, where they put the car in Lee's garage.

Lewis denied any actual knowledge of any of the other shootings but he told police that Varnado had said he was connected with all of them that had taken place around McComb.

Next day, after the attack on Clark, Lee asked Lewis if they had "got the 'nigger'."

Says Confessions Dovetail

George Royan of New Orleans, a special agent of the Illinois Central Railroad, who has been in charge of the investigation, said the confessions dove-tailed in almost every particular. Royan said the confessions revealed that Varnado was the "trigger man" in all of the shootings.

The McComb shootings occurred the nights of December 25, 1931; February 29, 1932; and March 1932. Varnado, Lee and Miller face charges in Pike County in connection with the three shootings.

Three charges are pending in Pike County against Lee, Varnado, and Miller; one in Lincoln County against Lee, Varnado, and Lewis; and one in Hinds County against Lee and Smith.

Slipped and Fell

Lee and Varnado also face indictment with flagging a freight train with a flash light on the night of February 22, 1932.

The confessions said Eugene Morris, white engineer, stopped the train to investigate, and was confronted by two men armed with shotguns, one of which was pointed at him. He said the masked man menaced him with the gun and made him get back to his engine, and that each "accused the other of being the only reason not shot was because the "gunman" in the incident. Royan said he was slipped against the rail and fell. Lewis, who was arrested in Memphis, Tenn., Sunday in a signed confession without any promise of immunity and without

Killings-1932

Mississippi.

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Their feuds have overflowed into the courts. Fingerprints of both of them were found in the dead woman's house, although ...y would not have been regarded as likely ...cial visitors. Another white person, Duncan ...linor, a supposed former sweetheart of the victim, was left the deceased woman's $175,000 estate, but suddenly disclaimed his intention of taking any part of it and hired a private detective to help solve the crime.

The French say "Cherchez la femme"—find the woman. Mississippi and other sections of the south substitute as a police crime theory, "find the 'nigger'"—and finding him often allows the real culprit to escape. In this case, fingerprint evidence led to the arrest of Miss Dockery and Dana, while bloodhounds put on the trail went to the home of Tom Ferguson, a white man.

Instead of sensibly investigating all angles and suspects impartially, Mississippi police rounded up all possible Negroes, third-degreed them into inconsistencies and "confessions," and fastened the guilt on them. The latest turn in the case is the "confession" of a Negro woman which involves two colored men, one of them George Pearles, who was killed by Pine Bluff, Ark. police "while resisting arrest."

Meanwhile, all the evidence piled up against Dana and Miss Dockery by fingerprint experts and a probe of motives seemingly ha... been cast into the muddy Mississippi River, a... the two aged eccentrics have been freed. It'... all very confusing, really—until you realize ho... simple a crime can sometimes be "solved" b... just saying "a 'nigger' done it."

Reign Of Terror Investigators Continue To Gather Evidence

Journal and Guide
Norfolk Virginia

JACKSON, Miss.—Although five white men have been arrested and have allegedly confessed complicity in the reign of terror that claimed the lives of six colored railway firemen and resulted in the serious wounding of more than a dozen others, several important points in the case still puzzle authorities who have been investigating the crimes.

Meanwhile, those arrested are being held under bonds ranging from $1,000 to over $26,000. They are scheduled to be tried at the fall term of court. 9-3-32

The five were arrested in various parts of the state and in Memphis and the confessions police reported they had made last week linked them to a paid murder plot hatched to get rid of Negro firemen on the Illinois Central Railroad so that white men could get their jobs.

Disregard Agreement

At one time, nearly all the Illinois Central firemen in this region were colored, but as economic conditions grew tight, unemployed whites brought pressure to bear to force the company to give whites the engineer and firemen jobs too.

An agreement was reached in which the whites and Negroes were allowed fifty per cent of the jobs each. But the whites were unwilling to abide by this agreement. They wanted all the Negroes fired. When the company refused to accede to such a demand, the whites conspired to do away with the black workers, even though the company promised that if Negroes were allowed to die a natural deaths they would not be replaced by Negroes, thereby creating a plan for eventual one hundred per cent occupancy of the jobs by whites.

Searching Investigation

Murder of some Negro firemen and whippings administered to others did not frighten Negroes off the jobs. The railroad company began a searching investigation to discover the men behind the reign of bloodshed. The first positive step was made seven weeks ago when a white man was indicted for shooting a colored fireman to death from ambush on one of the streets of Natchez.

When railroad inspectors and police officials arrested the five white men, they implicated themselves, with cushioned alibis, in the murder conspiracy. These men are: J. Matt Lewis, McComb, Miss., who was held in Memphis, Tenn., and questioned there; M. F. Varnado, of McComb, alleged "trigger" man; Emmett Smith, McComb, Miss., held at Brookhaven, with Varnado; Reedy Lee, of McComb, held in prison here and Charles J. Miller, of McComb, arrested at Magnolia.

Confusing Claims

They admit playing a part in the deadly business, but discliam any knowledge of the persons who agreed to pay them from $25 to $125 for their attacks, depending on the success achieved, $25 for slight maiming and $125 for a "stone dead." They admit that they were being paid and that they received some money, but don't know where it came from.

Further, they all violently insist that they were not party to any of the tragic excursions which resulted in death for Negro firemen.

The most complete confession was obtained from James Matt Lewis who, with three others, had formerly been employed as a fireman. Lewis made his confession in Memphis. It was reported in variously in the daily newspapers. In one account Lewis is reported to have stated that hunger of himself, his wife and children forced him to take part in a plot to kill Ernest Clark, a colored fireman, on August 9.

Journal and Guide

Says He Needed Money

"There's no limit to which a man will go if his wife and babies are starving," Lewis is reported to have commented. "I never killed a man in my life. I am a weak man, though I was led into the plot."

According to the Commercial Appeal, Lewis stated that he was approached several months ago and asked if he would not like to pick up some money and get his job back by "getting rid" of some of the Negro firemen. Norfolk Va.

"I didn't pay any attention to the offers then," he asserted. When his money ran out ond he was approached again, he agreed to participate in the attempted killing. This was the attack on Ernest Clark.

Lewis' job was to drive Varnado the trigger man, also a former I. C. fireman, from McComb to Brookhaven, and call the fireman out of the cab. If he was a Negro, Varnado was to do the killing. 9-3-32

Fired on Fireman

Lee introduced Lewis to Varnado and turned his car over to them. They drove to Brookhaven and Lewis called to the fireman and discovered he was a Negro. When Clark got on top of the tank, Varnado fired three times at him with an automatic shotgun. Clark fell and Lewis and Varnado rushed back to McComb, where they put the car in Lee's garage.

Lewis denied any actual knowledge of any of the other shootings but he told police that Varnado had said he was connected with all of them that had taken place around McComb.

Next day, after the attack on Clark, Lee asked Lewis if they had "got the 'nigger'."

Says Confessions Dovetail

George Royan of New Orleans, a special agent of the Illinois Central Railroad, who has been in charge of the investigation, said the confessions dove-tailed in almost every particular. Royan said the confessions revealed that Varnado was the "trigger man" in all of the shootings.

The McComb shootings occurred the nights of December 25, 1931; February 29, 1932; and March 1932. Varnado, Lee and Miller face charges in Pike County in connection with the three shootings.

Three charges are pending in Pike County against Lee, Varnado, and Miller; one in Lincoln County against Lee, Varnado, and Lewis; and one in Hinds County against Lee and Smith.

Slipped and Fell

Lee and Varnado also face indictment with flagging a freight train with a flash light on the night of February 22, 1932.

The confessions said Eugene Morris, white engineer, stopped the train went to investigate, and was confronted by two men armed with shotguns, one of which was pointed at him. He said the masked man men... aced him with the gun and made him get back to his engine. and that

...ernest Clark, Negro fireman, at ...Brookhaven on the night of August ...9, but denied the actual shooting. ...Lewis' statement, made in the pres... ...ence of a notary public, said he was ...making his confession without any ...promise of immunity and without ...Sunday in a signed con... ...Arcola, La., on the night of August 23, 1932, by placing a fuse on the tracks. The trio, however, ...to state in their confessions ... ...no shots were fired.

Confession Signed

... Lewis, who was arrested in Mem... ...phis, Tenn., ...also said the confessions of Miller ...

pressure being brought to bear upon him by the police.

Definite clues as to the identity of those responsible for the "reign of terror" along the Illinois Central between here and New Orleans came first on the night of August 16, when Detectives J. D. Pittman and R. C. Holderfield of Jackson, cruising about the outlying regions of the city, discovered a parked car on North West Street extension, opposite the coal chute along the railroad tracks.

Discovered Pair

Investigating, the officer discovered Lee and Smith. In Lee's car they found a Remington automatic shotgun loaded with buckshot and a .45 army Colt pistol also full of cartridges.

The officers rushed the pair to the city jail where they were held for investigation until Special Agents Royan and W. D. Bee could take charge of the probe. The break came last Friday when Smith is alleged to have admitted his part in coming to Jackson to ambush Ross Smith in the North yard here.

Loses Nerve

Describing the attack he said that he crept near the switch engine on which Smith was working and prepared to shoot him. But after the Negro had stopped stoking the furnace and peered into the darkness as if he saw him. Smith said his nerve failed and he scuttled back to the car where he told Lee that "he just couldn't do it."

He said he and Lee came downtown and drove about the city after which they are alleged to have plotted to kill the fireman on Train No. 25 if he was a Negro. The train was due in the North yards at 2:20 a.m., but ten minutes before that time they were discovered by the officers and jailed.

Special Agent Royan said that the Arcola incident would be taken up with the Tangipahoa grand jury when it convenes for indictment

JESSE WILLIAMS TO FACE TRIAL ON FEBRUARY 6

CAPTURED IN TENNESSEE AFTER 2 MONTHS' SEARCH; PLACED IN UNIDENTIFIED JAIL

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 14.—Claiming that Jesse Williams confessed to the slaying of Deputy Sheriff Jeff Williams at Senatobia, Miss. last October, Tennessee authorities released him to the custody of Sheriff A. C. Williams, of Senatobia, father of the slain deputy, who arrived here Tuesday morning and left immediately for an unannounced point in Mississippi. Jesse Williams was located in Memphis Monday night.

Sheriff Williams promised "there will be no lynching. I don't even know where I'm going to take him."

The slaying of the deputy sheriff last October, allegedly by Jesse Williams, who fled from the scene, caused much ill feeling in the vicinity and posses scoured Tate County in an effort to apprehend him. One of the posses came to a house occupied by Judge Crawford, relative of the accused Williams, and almost completely wiped out the family, killing Crawford, his two sons, and a son-in-law and critically wounding others. After more than a week's search of Mississippi hills and swamps the posses gave up the manhunt. Jesse Williams' young son was held as an accessory to the crime.

It is alleged that Deputy Williams had gone to arrest Jesse Williams as a robbery suspect when he was shot dead by his own gun in the hands of Jesse Williams.

Williams will be tried at a special term of court at Senatobia, Miss., Feb. 6, 1933, Circuit Judge John Kuykendall announced Wednesday.

Negro Sentenced In Woman's Death

NATCHEZ, MISS., Nov. 30.—(AP)—Emily Burns, negro woman, convicted recently as an accessory to the murder of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, wealthy aged recluse, was formally sentenced to serve a life sentence in the penitentiary.

In imposing the sentence, Judge R. L. Corban said he believed the woman "had committed the crime through bad company." Asked if she had any statement to make, the negro woman said:

"I am not guilty, but so long as the jury has found this verdict, I ask the mercy of the court." The sentence was mandatory.

The State claimed she was a party to the conspiracy in which the aged woman was slain during a robbery of her plantation home. George Pearls, negro, slain resisting arrest at Pine Bluff, Ark., was indicted as the actual murderer.

R. H. C. Dana, "the wild man of Goat Castle," and his guardian, Miss Octavia Dockery, "the Goat Woman," were arrested in connection with the investigation but later released. They were named in the negro woman's purported confession which she later repudiated.

Negro Woman Given Life Sentence For Part In Natchez Recluse Murder

NATCHEZ, MISS., Nov. 27.—(AP)—For an alleged conspiracy to rob an aristocratic old woman recluse who kept hardly a dollar of her money in her house, Emily Burns, negro rooming house keeper of Natchez, must go to the penitentiary for life.

The night of last Aug. 4, according to her now repudiated confessions made to Chief Deputy Sheriff Stone, of Adams County, Emily Burns went to the suburban residence of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, the daughter of Ayres Merrill, late ambassador to Belgium, and saw George Pearls, a negro "gun-toter," shoot her to death and hide her body in a thicket.

Pearls was killed three days later by an Arkansas officer as the negro resisted arrest in his flight away from Mississippi. While in Natchez Pearls stayed at the house of the Burns woman and officers found a rifle and other things he had left there.

A jury in Circuit Court here late last night found the Burns woman guilty as an accessory in the murder of Miss Merrill, but unable to agree on punishment, allowed the State law to give her a life sentence. Judge R. L. Cordan who presided over the trial will pass formal sentence on Monday.

In order to indict the negro woman as an accessory the county grand jury first returned a murder indictment against the dead Pearls.

The woman confessed to officers before her indictment that she was present at the quaint old Merrill house when Pearls shot Miss Merrill to death. She said he went there to rob Miss Merrill.

Others on the scene, the woman confessed, were R. H. C. Dana, eccentric musician, who lives on the next estate. Miss Octavia Dockery, his guardian and Edgar Newell, a negro undertaker, of Natchez.

The Burns woman on the stand repudiated her confessions and said she knew nothing about the murder except the accounts she had read in the newspapers.

She said she had given the officers the character of statements they wanted, but the officers said she went to the Merrill home, pointed out each detail of the crime and talked freely and voluntarily about the crime.

Miss Dockery and Mr. Dana, both members of aristocratic families, but living for years in utter seclusion until after the murder of Miss Merrill, were originally charged with murder, but were released for lack of evidence and were not indicted. Neither was any mention made of Newell after the grand jury investigation.

Duncan Minor, confidential friend of Miss Merrill for many years, was the sole beneficiary under her will.

It was he who discovered the evidence of murder and notified officers. He first pointed suspicion at the negro, Pearls, recalling that several days before the slaying, Pearls had stopped him in the road, asking for money and a job and becoming "insolent."

Mr. Minor aided the prosecution of the case throughout all its dizarre features. He is also a man of prominent lineage.

Killings-1932

POLICE ATTEMPT TO FASTEN THE BLAME ON NEGRO

NATCHEZ, Miss., Aug. 25—(ANP)—The most famous theory of French crime specialists, cherchez la femme (find the woman), is superseded in the bogey-minded white South by a more convenient pseudo theory, find the "nigger" (a "nigger" being any colored person, male or female, of high or low estate, normal or subnormal, who can be stuck for a crime).

Thus the master sleuths of this gulf and river region have solved the most sensational and mysterious crime to disturb the order of two states, Mississippi and Louisiana, since the famous slave massacres back in the thirties of the last century.

Ten days ago an old white woman, a recluse, was found dead in her dilapidated home out from the city on Kingston Road, shot to death. The woman was Miss Janet Surget Merrill, a spinster of 72 years, the daughter of a former ambassador to Belgium, who, at the height of a social career 40 years ago, forsook the gay life of the young bloods of that day and immersed herself in the oblivion of quiet plantation life, near the estate of her girlhood sweetheart, Duncan Minor, a descendant of a Spanish governor.

Miss Merrill, worth a quarter of a million dollars, had been shot to death.

Further out in the country was Dana's Bottom, the estate of one Richard Dana, half-crazy scion of the famous Danas of New York and journalistic fame. There lived with him, as guardian and protector, Octavia Dockery, daughter of a famous Confederate general.

Miss Merrill, Miss Dockery and Dana all lived in the past. Miss Dockery and Dana lived in an old memorial home a century and a quarter old, the splendor of which had flown, and which, because of the goats raised on the place, had become known as Goat Castle.

Who murdered the rich spinster, aloof, irascible and given to occult ways (she held seances in her home)?

Local police were unable to tell. Few Negroes live in the section inhabited by these strange whites. Suspicion pointed toward Miss Dockery and Dana, because the Dockery woman and the dead recluse had frequently quarreled when Miss Dockery's goats strayed on Miss Merrill's place. The idiotic Dana and Miss Dockery were arrested and charged with the crime.

Finger print experts, one of those wizards from New Orleans, established the fact that the prisoners were connected with the crime and, lo and behold, bloodhounds put on the trail went to the home of a white man, Tom Ferguson.

But down there it is much easier to solve a crime with "niggers" than with facts or clues of whatever nature.

The scheme is to round up Negroes, all kinds, and third degree them into inconsistencies, then fasten the guilt on them.

In this latest crime, however, the guilt was fastened upon a dead Negro, which was unusual, because, as a rule, the dominant whites prefer their victims alive and ready for torture.

On information furnished by a Negro whom the sheriff declined to name, guilt was pointed toward a Negro known variously as Lawrence Williams and George Pearlos. It was reported that he had worked for Miss Merrill and that he had in his possession a pistol of the same type from which the bullet which killed the woman was fired. Williams was traced to Pine Bluff, Ark. In an encounter with an officer there he was killed.

It was announced that he was the murderer. It was also announced that a pistol like the one used to kill Miss Merrill had been discovered in his trunk in New Orleans.

At the same time all the evidence piled up against Dana and Miss Dockery by finger print experts was cast into the Mississippi River and the two aged eccentrics were freed.

In the language of one of the veterans on the police force here all that was necessary was "Just say a 'nigger' did it."

RETURN NEGRO SUSPECT

Merrill Case Will Be Ended This Week, Says Sheriff.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Aug. 30.—Edgar Newell, negro embalmer and undertaker, one of the four persons said by Emily Burns to have accompanied George Pearls, "Detroit-Chicago" negro to the Merrill home to murder Miss Jane Surget Merrill, member of a prominent Adams County family, on the night of Aug. 4, was brought back to Natchez early this afternoon from Jackson, where he was taken after the second "confession" of the Burns woman to local officers.

No formal charges were made today against Emily Burns or the Newell negro by Sheriff C. P. Roberts or County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph E. Brown. According to the sheriff no action is expected to be taken at the present time.

Mayor S. Beekman Laub, attorney for Duncan G. Minor, was amused today after reading of tne possible contesting of the Merrill will.

"It is ridiculous. We expect no contest from any one," said the attorney.

He failed to comment on the possibility of a contest being filed by Miss Catherine Merrill, sister of the slain woman, who is said by friends of the Merrill family to be en route here from Switzerland.

Richard H. C. "Wild Man" Dana, eccentric son of an Episcopal minister, and king of "Goat Castle," this morning was surprised when a local transfer company brought a fairly new "upright" piano to his one-time beautiful home at "Glenwood."

Dana had been trying to entertain his guests (at 25 cents a piece) with selections from an old dust-covered piano at the "Goat Castle," but the piano was badly out of tune and it was almost impossible to play on it.

Like a child with a new top, Dana began picking out tunes much to the gratification of a large crowd of sightseers and friends who had gathered to see Dana and Miss Dockery, the famous goats and the grounds.

The case will be closed this week, Sheriff Roberts said.

Tennesseean Denies He Killed Firemen

MEMPHIS, Aug. 23. (UP)—James Matt Lewis, 30, Tuesday denied he killed anyone, but admitted he "stooped to crime in order to buy groceries," and knew of the "reign of terror" among Negro firemen for the Illinois Central railway in Mississippi.

Lewis was arrested as a participant in the attempted murder of Ernest Clark, Negro railway fireman. Officers claim a number of Negro firemen have been murdered in an effort to drive other Negroes out of their jobs, which are sought by white men.

Although Lewis denied he had killed anyone, he admitted knowing of a "plot." Meanwhile, M. F. Varnado McComb, 24, a former fireman of the Illinois Central, just as Lewis was once employed by the railroad, is held at Brookhaven, Miss., on a charge of assault and battery in the Clarke case.

Goat Castle Killing Goes to Grand Jury

NATCHEZ, Miss., Nov. 15.—(AP)—Witness after witness appeared before the Adams county grand jury today in connection with the inquiry being made into the slaying of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, daughter of the late Ayres Merrill, former ambassador to Belgium, who was murdered at "Glenburney," her suburban estate on the night of August 4.

The procession was led by Sheriff C. P. Roberts, who said he had evidence sufficient to warrant the indictment of R. H. C. Dana, eccentric musician, known as the "wild man" of Goat castle; his guardian, Miss Octavia Dockery, "the goat woman;" Emily Burns, negro woman, who is a confessed accessory to the slaying, and Edgar Newell, negro undertaker, whom she implicated as well as Dana and Miss Dockery.

Killings-1932

Negro Firemen Shot From Cabs of Locomotives

Macon Ga.

VICKSBURG, Miss., March 28 (AP)—Judge E. L. Brien started the March session of Warren county circuit court here today with an admonition to the grand jury to do their "dead level best" to find out who is responsible for shooting Negro firemen out of their cabs along the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad.

Two Negro firemen have been killed with shotguns in Warren county in the past 10 days and two others were killed in other sections near here.

The unofficial belief was that the killings were provoked over labor troubles, but officials in their investigations have not assigned a definite motive.

Judge Brien in charging the grand jury told them that a person in position to know had told him that "the white people won't tell and the Negroes are afraid to tell," anything about the shooting.

2 Negro Firemen Slain Mysteriously

3-24-32

VICKSBURG, MISS., March 23.—(AP)—Ruthless and mysterious attacks with shotguns that have claimed two deaths in a week along the lines of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad are commanding strict attention of local officers and railroad detectives.

Negro firemen have been the victims of the attacks, being ambushed in the dark and killed with shotgun slugs. In other instances firemen have been fired on but escaped serious injury.

In the latest outbreak of the peril which occurred early today the ambusher resorted to a ruse with a flare that ended in the shooting down of Wilbur Anderson, a negro fireman of Baton Rouge, La., who was working on a through freight train.

The attack occurred about three miles south of the local Yazoo and Mississippi Valley station. In the other attack Aaron Williams, another negro fireman, was fatally wounded last Saturday night in the local yards.

Before daybreak today F. W. Behrens, of Baton Rouge, the engineer and Anderson observed a flare burning beside the track ahead of their train. The flare being a signal of trouble, the engineer halted his locomotive. While he prepared to investigate the flare was extinguished. He was starting the engine when an unidentified man bearing a shotgun jumped into the cab.

Anderson left the cab and started to flee when he was shot down.

Officials Seek Slayers Of Negro Rail Workers

3-26-32

VICKSBURG, MISS., March 25.—(AP)—Officers of the Illinois Central Railroad Company were assured today in conference with Chamber of Commerce officials and local officers that everything possible was being done to apprehend the person or persons responsible for killing negro firemen serving on railroads in this section.

Two firemen have been shot and killed at their cabs in the past 10 days of the reign of terror believed to have cropped out of labor difficulties. The men fell dead from shotgun charges fired from ambush.

Citizens and business men generally expressed their hearty sympathy with the officers in running down the killers.

NEGRO FUGITIVE KILLED

GREENVILLE, MISS., March 16.—(AP)—Sheriff Ben H. Gildart of Washington County, Miss., informed his office here today of the fatal wounding at Tallulah, La., of Ed Penion, 32-year-old negro who has been hunted for many days for the slaying of Joe Knox, plantation manager of this section. Benion late yesterday resisted efforts of officers in Louisiana to arrest him and he was shot in the head. Benion died today. Knox was shot on March 1 after an argument with the negro, a farm hand, and died four days later.

MISSISSIPPI WHITE MAN KILLS FARMER

Courier

MACON, Miss., Mar. 31.—(CNS)—Charley Perkins, white, last week discharged two loads of buckshot into the face of Martin Holly, colored, killing him instantly. There were no witnesses to the attack, which occurred on a lonely road near here. Perkins stated that Holly had threatened him with a knife. He later called two colored men to view the body and showed them a knife he said Holly had threatened him with

REIGN OF TERROR AS TWO TRAINMEN ARE BRUTALLY SLAIN WHILE ON DUTY

East Tennessee News

3-31-32

VICKSBURG, Miss. Mar. 28—Mysterious attacks with shotguns that have claimed two deaths in a week along the lines of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad, are commanding strict attention of local officers and railroad detectives.

Firemen have been the victims of attacks, being ambushed in the dark and killed with shotgun slugs. In other instances firemen have been fired on but escaped serious injury.

In the latest outbreak of the peril which occurred early today, the ambusher or ambushers resorted to a ruse with a flare that ended in the shooting down of Wilbur Anderson, a Negro fireman of Baton Rouge, La., who was working on through freight train No. 172.

The attack occurred about three miles south of the local Yazoo and Mississippi Valley passenger station. In the other attack, Aaron Williams, another fireman, was fatally wounded last Saturday night in the local yards.

Before daybreak today F. W. Behrens, white, of Baton Rouge, the engineerman, and Anderson, observed a flare burning beside the track ahead of their train.

The flare being a signal of trouble the engineer pulled his locamotive to a stop and, while he prepared to investigate, the flare was extinguished. He was starting the engine when an unidentified man bearing a shotgun jumped into the cab.

Anderson left the cab and started to flee. Just as he did so, the man with the shotgun fired a load of buckshot into Anderson's back and the fireman fell over dead beside the engine.

VICKSBURG, Miss. — Alarm spread among Negro trainmen in this section tonight after the second mysterious murder in four days, and reports, still unverified, that a dozen Negroes have been killed or wounded and others flogged as a result of labor troubles.

County officers sought a lone gunman, who halted a fast freight train of theYazoo and Mississippi Valley line with a fuse, a trainman'storch signal, early today, removed a Negro fireman and shot him to death beside his cab engine No. 172.

The murdered man was Wilbur Anderson, who had been with the railroad for fifteen years.

A similar murder occured in the roundhouse yards here on Saturday night and was still unsolved. In that case, an automobile loaded with men approached a switch engine, loosened a volley of gunfire and killed Aaron Williams, said to have been the oldest fireman on the line in point of service.

It was understood that there was enmity between white and Negro firemen over jobs on the railroad. Formerly the company employed half white and half Negro firemen. Recently five percent of the latter were said to have been discharged and their jobs given to the white men, but the white men demanded that more of the jobs be given to them.

ANOTHER NEGRO FIREMAN SHOT IN MISSISSIPPI

Chicago Tribune

Police Find No Clew to the Killing of Four.

4-4-32

Vicksburg, Miss., April 3.—[Special.]—James Weddington, Negro fireman on the Mississippi and Yazoo Valley railroad, was shot and seriously wounded by unidentified assailants tonight as he was at work in an engine cab.

A campaign of terrorism against Negro firemen and brakemen has been carried on in Mississippi for weeks. Four have been killed and seven others wounded. The engine Weddington was firing was the same on which Aaron Williams was shot and killed two weeks ago. Oscar Wilkes, engineer, was in the cab when each shooting occurred, but was unhurt.

Falls from Engine.

After he had been struck in both arms and his right side by shotgun slugs, Weddington fell from the engine and ran to the home of a friend, where he awaited an ambulance. It is believed he will recover.

Investigation by the police and the county officers, ordered by Mayor Hamilton and Sheriff Hossley, indicated that three men had waited in an automobile parked near the railroad tracks and from this point of vantage had poured their fire on the engine while Weddington was shoveling. The glow from the firebox outlined him as a target.

INVESTIGATION FAILS.

G. E. Patterson, vice president of the Illinois Central railway, said yesterday an investigation conducted by him resulted in no clews to the assailants of the road's Negro firemen and brakemen in Mississippi.

Mr. Patterson has just returned from Mississippi, where the killing of four Negro trainmen and the shooting of seven others, were investigated without success. The attacks occurred in the vicinities of Canton, Durant and Macomb, besides Vicksburg, Mr. Patterson said.

Appeal for Protection.

"The colored people appealed to the road for protection and we are doing everything we can, with the sheriffs coöperating with our own police, but it would require an army to patrol the tracks. Insuring protection is a different problem," said Mr. Patterson.

"In some instances the trains have been stopped by the placing of red fuses along the tracks. Under the rules, the train must stop, and one of the crew must get off and put out the fuse before the train proceeds. Some of the Negroes were shot from abush when they went to do this. Others were shot off the trains at stops. The assailants use shotguns, loaded with buckshot."

No Hope Of Protection For Negro R. R. Men In South--- Says I. C. Rail Road Official

Returning to Chicago from a tour of the company's lines in Mississippi, where he personally conducted an investigation into the reign of terror against colored rail road workers who have been slain and wounded from ambush while at work on the company's lines, G. E. Patterson, vice president of the Illinois Central rail road this week admitted that his investigation had been a falure, and stated that the company is unable to guarantee protection to colored workers from murderous whites seeking to frighten them away from their jobs. After seven colored switchmen, brakemen, and firemen working on the I. C. trains in the Mississippi section havt been murdered on the job and more than ten others wounded, the repeated appeals of the colored employees to the company fro protection resulted in the personal investigation by Mr. Patterson. Commenting upon his failure Mr. Patterson stated upon his return:

"The colored people appealed to the road for protection and we are doing everything we can, with the sheriffs cooperating with our own police, but it would require an army to patrol the tracks. Insuring protection is a different problem," said Mr. Patterson.

"In some instances the trains have been stopped by the placing of red fuses along the tracks. Under the rules, the train must stop, and one of the crew must get off and put out the fuse before the train proceeds. Some of the Negroes were shot from ambush when they went to do this. Others were shot off the trains at stops. The assailants use shotguns loaded with buckshot."

Following the failure of the investigation by the head of the rail line, and his statement that he could do nothing to protect the colored workmen, plans have been made for an appeal to the U. S. Department of Justice for protection and an investigation which will bring the murderers to justice. While Mr. Patterson was on the scene, two trains were stopped by the white murdereds and Andrew Lewis, a brakesman, was merdered, and James Weddingson, a fireman, was seriously wounded.

Local officials have winked at the slaughters and have made fake investigations in which they report themselves unable to identify any of the slayers. Several Mississippi officials have advised the colored rail road men to take heed of the anony mous letters received warning them to give up their jobs and flee for their lives.

ATTACKS CONTINUE ON RAILROAD FIREMEN

Five Have Been Killed and Seven Wounded in Miss.-Yazoo

VICKSBURG, Miss. (ANP)—James Weddington, fireman on the Mississippi and Yazoo Valley railroad, was shot and seriously wounded by unidentified assailants Sunday night as he was at work in an engine cab.

He is the seventh to be injured and five have been killed in a campaign of terrorism which is believed to have been started by disgruntled whites who are seeking to force colored men off firemen jobs on the trains. Colored men used to have most of the jobs, but when the depression came and whites were thrown out of work, they demanded that they be given the work.

An arrangement was made whereby fifty per cent of the jobs would be given to whites and fifty per cent to colored. But the whites apparently are not satisfied and are attempting to cut down the percentage with shotguns.

Investigation Worthless

Most of the attacks have occurred in the vicinities of Canton, Durant, McComb and Vicksburg. G. E. Patterson, vice-president of the Illinois Central railroad, has conducted an investigation without results.

Four Dead and Seven Hurt in Fight for Railroad Jobs

[Chicago Defender Press Service]

VICKSBURG, Miss., April 8. — That firing engines on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad is unsafe for members of the Race has been clearly demonstrated during the past few weeks in which four have been ruthlessly killed and seven wounded. The campaign of terrorism against Race firemen and brakemen carried on in this state flared up again Sunday night when James Weddington, a fireman, was shot and seriously wounded by unidentified white men as he was at work in an engine cab.

Weddington, the father of several children and a veteran on the road, is confined in a local hospital. Physicians say he has a slight chance to recover.

Will Not Quit

Despite the reign of terror, Race firemen and brakemen say they will not quit, but will take the law in their own hands and be prepared to fight off any person who intimidates them while they are at work.

Wedding was firing the same engine on which Aaron Williams was shot to death two weeks ago. Oscar Wilkes (white), engineer, was in the cab when each shooting occurred, but was unhurt.

Weddington was firing the same engine reporter that a red flare was seen on the track. The engineer stopped the train and immediately he was fired on by the unidentified white men, who, he said, were parked in an automobile near the tracks.

After he had been struck in both arms and his right side by shotgun slugs, Weddington said he fell from the engine and ran to the home of a farmer where he waited until an ambulance arrived and took him to a local hospital.

Investigation a Fizzle

An investigation by G. E. Patterson, vice president of the Illinois Central railroad, has so far proven a fizzle. Patterson visited various towns in Mississippi, but explains that he was unable to get a clew upon which to have the assailants of the firemen and brakemen taken into custody. The attacks occurred in the vicinities of Canton, Durant, McComb and Vicksburg.

In some instances the trains have been stopped by the placing of red fuses along the tracks. Under the rules, the train must stop, and one of the crew must get off and put out the fuse before the train proceeds. Some of the firemen and brakemen were shot from ambush when they went to do this. Others were shot off the trains at stops. The assailants use shotguns, loaded with buckshot.

ANOTHER NEGRO SHOT IN 'WAR' FOR RAILROAD JOBS

Whites Have Killed 5 And Injured 7 To Date

VICKSBURG, Miss — (ANP) — James Weddington, fireman on the Mississippi and Yazoo Valley railroad, was shot and seriously wounded by unidentified assailants Sunday night as he was at work in an engine cab.

He is the seventh to be injured, and five have also been killed, in a campaign of terrorism which is believed to have been started by disgruntled whites who are seeking to force Negroes off firemen jobs on the trains.

Negroes used to have most of the jobs, but when the depression came and whites were thrown out of work, they demanded that they be given the work. An arrangement was made whereby fifty percent of the jobs would be given to whites and fifty percent to Negroes. But the whites apparently are not satisfied and are attempting to cut down the Negro percentage with shotguns.

Most of the attacks have occurred in the vicinities of Canton, Durant, McComb and Vicksburg. G. E. Patterson, vice president of the Illinois Central railroad, has conducted an investigation without results. He stated after concluding his investigation:

"The people appealed to the railroad for protection and we are doing everything we can, with the sheriffs cooperating with our own police, but it would require an army to patrol the tracks. Insuring protection is a difficult problem.

"In some instances the trains have been stopped by the placing of red fuses along the tracks. Under the rules, the train must stop, and one of the crew must get off and put out the fuse before the train proceeds. Some of the men were shot from ambush when they went to do this. Others were shot off the trains at stops. The assailants used shotguns, loaded with buckshot."

WHITES HELD FOR TERRORISM

DRESDEN, Tenn.—"Night riding" and the terrorizing of Negroes have come back to life here in recent months, and the office of Sheriff Will Dunn has been kept busy investigating cases that have been reported to him.

Last Friday four white farmers were arrested on charges of resorting to "terrorism tactics" in order to force Negro laborers to leave their jobs and make openings, thereby, for white men.

UNEMPLOYED CHASE NEGROES

JACKSON, Miss.—The reign of terror which has been making its rounds throughout the South forcing colored men to leave their jobs in order that white unemployed men may suceed them, reached here Saturday when about 40 whites routed a dozen or more Negroes from razing an old building.

The white men are declared to be members of the Mystic Order of United Workers, an organization which has been formed by the unemployed.

Killings—1932

TORCH SLAYER GUILTY

Courier

COFFEYVILLE, Miss., July 21—A law-abiding colored citizen and his 15-year-old son were the tragic victims of the far South's vicious code of justice, when two white men first robbed, then saturated Lewis Bryant and young Bryant in oil and finally burned them to death in a hideous human pyre. One of the white men, Arthur Cook, 31, who was apprehended, plead guilty to the crime and was given the a life-sentence. 7/23/32

The crime was one of the most inhuman and horrible ever committed in the state. Its sordid details were aired in court during the white torch slayer's trial. The white men first tortured the man and his son and then carried them bodily away, saturated their bodies with oil and then burned them to death.

Another unidentified white man, who is believed to have been a party to the inhuman and gruesome crime, is being sought by police authorities.

Bryant and his son were described as having been peaceful and law-abiding citizens of the community and the horrible attack upon them was consideed as unwarranted.

Resentment in the state flared high among the colored citizens, many voicing the opinion that the brutal slayer should have been given the supreme penalty. They also persisted that the police should follow through every possible clue to apprehend the other white man, who is said to have been a party to the crime.

White Man Slays Two Negroes, Gets Life

Recorder

COFFEEVILLE, Miss., July 29.—(CNS)—Arthur Cook, white, a 31-year-old farmer, was sentenced last week to life imprisonment for the "torch murdeers" of Lewis Bryant colored, and his fifteen year old son Cook pleading guilty. The sheriff has intimated that another white man [illegible] being sought.

7-30-32

After being tortured into revealing the hiding place of the family's life savings, Bryant and his son were saturated with oil and burned to death by Cook and another white man.

Robbed by Whites; Burned to Death

Memphis Commercial Appeal
Bolivar Nat.

OAKLAND, Miss.—According to a report announced by Sheriff W. N. Frost, who is investigating, a small band of white men pounced upon the family of Louis Bryant and tortured him, his wife and his 15-year-old son, until they told them the hiding place of $426 which Bryant had been saving over a period of 20 yearss. 7/23/32

The white men then saturated the clothes of Bryant and his son with oil and set fire to them and the house, burning the two men to death. Mrs. Bryant fled while the fiends were murdering her husband.

Negro Now Thought Killer Of Wealthy Woman On Plantation

Advertiser

NATCHEZ, MISS., Aug. 15.—(AP)—The strange couple, Octavia Dockery and Richard Dana, were freed from their jail cells late today and permitted to return to "Goat Castle," virtually exonerated of the charge of the murder of their wealthy neighbor, Miss Jane Merrill, who was slain on the night of Aug. 4 on her solitary estate near here. 8-16-32

They were released on their own recognizance after the officials had concluded that the murder was committed by a negro, George Pearles, who in turn was killed by Pine Bluff, Ark., police resisting arrest last week and whose body will be viewed tonight by Natchez officials in Chicago, where it was taken for burial. Montgomery

Before being released, the pair had filed a habeas corpus petition before Chancellor R. W. Cutrer and a hearing was set for Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Their release was obtained by doubt being cast on the findings of the Jackson Bertillion authority who reported to Sheriff C. P. Roberts that fingerprints photographed in the Merrill home resembled those of Miss Dockery and Dana. The Jackson report was not supported by a New Orleans fingerprint expert who tonight was in Chicago to fingerprint the body of the Pearles negro.

At the same time, Walter Abbott, Court clerk, went to Pine Bluff to get the pistol taken from the body of the negro for expert examination to determine if bullets of the same caliber found in the walls of the Merrill home were fired from the weapon.

If the fingerprints and pistol bear out the officials' latest theory, the case probably will be closed as one of murder for robbery committed by the slain negro, who was born near Natchez but migrated to Chicago many years ago and returned to his native land unemployed and without funds.

Should the case thus end, the townspeople of Natchez feel that great injustice has been done the eccentrics, Dana and Dockery, who have been regarded as a harmless and helpless old man and woman, who formed their strange partnership out of wedlock, and struggled for livelihood on a run-down goat farm.

Some citizens suggested raising a purse while others favored some aid that would give them a permanent lift back toward the life they led some 40 years ago as members of two of the South's best families.

Tonight they returned to the squalor of the once famous "Glenwood" mansion, home of Dana's scholarly father, an Episcopal rector, brother of the late Charles Dana, former publisher of The New York Sun. There they will attempt to pick up the threads of their lives more frustrated than ever, amid reminders of their better days, when Miss Dockery was the favorite daughter of a Confederate general and Richard Dana sought fame as a pianist.

Back on the goat farm—Dockery the poet and Dana the musician—lived tonight.

DEAD NEGRO STANDS ACCUSED OF SLAYING

'Goat Feud' Murder Is Believed Solved With Discovery Of New Evidence

Advertiser
Montgomery Adv.
8/15/32

NATCHEZ, MISS., Aug. 14.—(AP)—A dead negro stood accused tonight of the slaying of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, wealthy aristocratic recluse and a belle of by-gone days on the night of Aug. 4 on her estate outside of Natchez.

Until tonight the sheriff had contended that she had been shot to death by Richard Dana and Octavia Dockery, her eccentric neighbors and poverty stricken members of once aristocratic families, who lived together on a goat farm.

His switch in attitude, the Sheriff explained, was due to a tip from an old negro who told him to search a house in St. Catherine Street for evidence. The sheriff said he found in the house a trunk belonging to a negro named George Pearles, alias Lawrence Williams who was killed last Wednesday by Pine Bluff, Ark., officers when he resisted arrest.

The trunk held a quantity of .32-20 cartridges, similar to those dug out of the walls of the Merrill home, and his clothing, the sheriff said corresponded to a description of those worn by a man seen on the Merrill grounds shortly before the shooting. When killed at Pine Bluff, Sheriff Roberts said the negro was armed with a .32-20 revolver and he was known to have carried the revolver on his visit back to his home near Natchez.

Negro relatives of the negro, Sheriff Roberts said, told him that Pearles had complained of being out of employment and that he had sought jobs from Miss Merrill and Duncan Minor, close friend of the slain woman. They said, the Sheriff added, that the negro also had told them he had visited the Dana-Dockery goat farm.

With these developments, the Sheriff said he had concluded that the actual killing was done by the negro but the finger prints, which the Bertillion expert from Jackson said resembled those of Dana and Miss Dockery, justified his holding them for further investigation.

The negro Pearles was born near Natchez 50 years ago, the Sheriff said, but for the last 25 years had lived in Chicago. The body was buried in Chicago and the Natchez officials said they would request the Chicago police to furnish them with finger prints of the negro to compare with prints found at the scene of the killing.

Fingerprints Of Suspect Studied

Advertiser

NATCHEZ, MISS., Aug. 16.—(AP)—Further investigation of the murder of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, aristocratic and wealthy recluse, at her plantation home on Aug. 4, today awaited developments at Chicago where officers were seeking fingerprints of George Pearles negro suspect, who was shot and killed a week ago when he resisted arrest at Pine Bluff, Ark. 8-17-32

Should Pearles's fingerprints compare with those found in the Merrill home, the case is expected to be terminated, the crime being held as a case of murder as a result of frustration of an attempt to rob the aged woman. After living for a number of years in Chicago Pearles returned here recently seeking employment. He disappeared after the slaying. Montgomery

When Maurice O'Neil, Bertillon expert of New Orleans, returns from Chicago, where he went with Sheriff Clarence Roberts, he is expected to examine Pearles's pistol, which has been turned over to Mississippi authorities by officials of Pine Bluff. It is the same caliber as bullets which killed Miss Merrill. The ballistic expert probably will examine the death slugs to determine whether they were fired from Pearles's gun.

Richard Dana and his guardian, Miss Octavia Dockery, had returned today to their abode adjoining the Merrill plantation. The aged and eccentric pair was released yesterday on their recognizance after having been held in jail since the slaying. Suspicion fell upon them at first because of reported ill feeling between them and Miss Merrill, who was said to have objected to goats straying upon her plantation from the grounds upon which stands the dilapidated Dana mansion, known to natives as the "goat castle."

NEGRO HELD IN DEATH OF MISSISSIPPI WOMAN

Constitution
8-23-32
Atlanta Ga.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Sept. 23.—(AP) Trailed by blood hounds, a negro known as Rogers Dudley Roberts was arrested today after the nude body of Miss Jerline McNeil, 40, had been found in a ditch off the highway near her home five miles from Philadelphia, Miss. She had been stabbed in the breast and the body hidden with brush.

Roberts was taken into custody at his home near-by, where officers said they found bloody clothing and a sawed-off shotgun. He was spirited away to an unannounced jail for safekeeping.

Wealthy Recluse Slain By Negro Since Dead, Fingerprints Reveal

NATCHEZ, MISS., Aug. 19—(AP)—George Pearles, Chicago negro slain resisting arrest at Pine Bluff, Ark., Aug. 7, was identified today as the murderer of Miss Game Surget Merrill, wealthy recluse, whose death on her old Southern plantation Aug. 4, threw this historic town into a furore.

Although Maurice O'Neil, ballistic expert, at his laboratory in the New Orleans Police Department identified Pearles's revolver as the one with which the aged woman was slain, Sheriff C. P. Roberts, of Adams County, said "others are implicated and the case is by no means closed."

"We are satisfied that Pearles was the actual murderer," the Sheriff said. "But others are implicated. We want O'Neil to come back and continue the investigation of fingerprints. The citizens of Natchez demand his return."

O'Neil said in New Orleans that he would return to Natchez if he was needed. He said it would be several days before he would complete his fingerprint report.

Fingerprints of Duncan Minor, boyhood sweetheart of Miss Merrill and her only close friend at the time of her death, and those of six negroes including the Merrill cook, which were recorded last night were mailed to New Orleans today to be added to those which O'Neil took with him.

Sheriff Roberts refused to say who he considered implicated in the murder nor would be indicate whether they were white persons or negroes.

The other negroes fingerprinted last night were two at whose house Pearles resided while here and three men seen with him the day of the slaying. Pearles had returned here recently after living many years in Chicago. He had grown up in this section and upon his return was unsuccessful in seeking employment from Miss Merrill and Minor. He disappeared immediately after the slaying.

Following his death at Pine Bluff officers here located Pearles's trunk at a local rooming house and discovered cartridges in it of the same caliber that killed Miss Merrill. After his body was removed to Chicago for burial, Sheriff Roberts and O'Neil went there and obtained his fingerprints.

While they were there, two strange suspects were released here. They were Richard Dana and his guardian, Miss Octavia Dockery. They had been arrested and charged with the slaying when fingerprints reported resembling theirs were found in the Merrill house and it was learned that the pair and Miss Merrill were at odds because of Miss Dockery's goats having trespassed upon the Merrill plantation.

Since their release Dana and Miss Dockery have returned to the Dana plantation which adjoins the Merrill place and once vied with it as a show place but which the two eccentrics have allowed to become dilapidated.

Wild Man' Dana Employs Manager to Handle It All

Beard Gone And Clothes Groomed, Goat Castle Owner Demands Fees of Visitors—Expects To Return To Stage As Musician

BY NED SMITH.
Special To The Commercial Appeal.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Aug. 26.—These are busy days for the erstwhile "Wild Man of Goat Castle." While Glenwood, the ante bellum mansion is being cleaned and restored, Richard C. Dana, 61, recently released from the Adams County jail with his guardian, Miss Octavia Dockery, 60, following the declaration of District Attorney Clay Tucker that there was not sufficient evidence to hold them in the Merrill murder case is spending his time in reading his press notices and supervising the guards at the entrances to "Goat Castle."

The guards have been authorized to accept nominal fees from those who wish to visit "Goat Castle" and in one of his daily conferences with newspaper men, "the wild man" confided that business was fairly good, considering the depression. There is hope that the mortgage will soon be lifted on the ancestral manor.

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Those who come to Natchez to see the "wild man" are surprised to find an affable well groomed man who since his release from jail has had his long and flowing locks shorn and his bristling whiskers removed. They see a man with the manners of a Chesterfield whose conversation is marked with humor and brilliant repartee. Dana is ready to talk on art, science, literature, economics, national or local politics—in fact almost every subject known except the Merrill murder mystery. He seems to wish to forget the unhappy memory when he was held in jail as a suspect although he did not seem to mind the confinement especially.

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It is understood that her public relations counsel, Sam Abbott is endeavoring to induce her to write the story of her own life for release in serial form and that she is inclined to give the matter favorable consideration.

Negro Woman Tells Of Merrill Slaying

NATCHEZ, Miss., Aug. 23.—(AP)—(Tuesday)—Emily Burns, negro woman rooming house operator, in a statement to officers at 12:40 a. m. today told them that she was present in Glenburney plantation home the night of August 4 when Miss Jane Merrill, 68-year-old wealthy recluse, was shot to death.

The woman's statement said that George Pearls, negro gunman who was shot to death three days later by a policeman at Pine Bluff, Ark., killed Miss Merrill and that Edgar Newell another negro who stayed at her house was the third person present.

Negro Woman Confesses Holding Lamp While Men Killed Recluse

JACKSON, MISS., Aug. 23.—(AP)—A negro woman who said she held an oil lamp while a negro man killed Jane Surget Merrill, wealthy recluse, and a third negro aided in removing the body from the Merrill plantation home, was held for safekeeping here tonight as officers continued to unravel the ramifications of the State's most sensational crime in recent years.

The negro woman, Emily Burns, rooming-house keeper of Natchez, made the confession early today in her cell in the Natchez jail, officers reported, and almost immediately afterwards she was spirited away and brought here with Edgar Newell, negro roomer in her home whom she implicated.

The purported confession said that she, Newell and George Pearles, another negro, entered the Merrill mansion on the night of Aug. 4 to rob the eccentric spinster and that Pearles "did not intend to kill Miss Merrill, although he shot her twice." When they realized the shots had proved fatal, the body was carried out of the house by Pearles and Newell, the statement said.

Three days later Pearles was killed when resisting arrest at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Discovery of Miss Merrill's body resulted in charges of murder being filed against Richard Dana and his housekeeper, Miss Octavia Dockery, eccentrics who lived in a tumbled down mansion adjoining the Merrill estate, but Dana and Miss Dockery have been released on their own recognizance.

Sheriff C. P. Roberts, of Natchez, who questioned Emily Burns and Newell in the jail here declined to comment on that part of the purported confession which the negro woman said Pearles went to Dana's farm prior to the slaying and there picked up an overcoat which was later found in Miss Merrill's home.

Fingerprint experts, whose first reports resulted in the arrests of Dana and Miss Dockery also continued to withhold their final report.

County Atty. Joseph Brown, of Natchez, said no progress had been made in a search for a mysterious "Mr. Austin," of Jackson, who on Aug. 11 called on Mrs. Nellie Grist, at Greenfield, Ind. and told her of Miss Merrill's death. Mrs. Grist said she was a bare acquaintance of Miss Merrill.

MURDER AT NATCHEZ RE-ENACTED BY NEGRO

Woman Implicates Others In Story to Sheriff.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Aug. 26.—With only the pale light of the moon filtering through the moss-draped water oaks to illuminate the scene and the beams of the officers' flashlights to light her pathway, Emily Burns, negress, confessed accessory to the murder of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, late last night and early today, re-enacted the murder at the scene of the crime, retracing on the grounds of Glenburney and Glenwood the Merrill and Dana estates, respectively, all movements of the persons she claims to have taken part in the crime.

This grim drama was staged, as realistically as possible, Sheriff C. P. Roberts, under circumstances calculated to coincide with those under which the slaying was actually done. Even the hour was the same. The mysterious movements of the officers about the Dana place frightened Miss Octavia Dockery, known as the "goat woman," intensely. Miss Dockery, who with Richard Dana, the "wild man," stands charged with the murder of Miss Merrill, was recently released with her ward, on her own recognizance from the Adams County jail. Miss Dockery sought the assistance of A. S. Dickson, a neighbor, who acted as custodian of the Dana property during the time that she and Dana were confined in jail.

Sheriff Tells of Re-enactment.

When asked regarding the murder scene, Sheriff Roberts said:

"The woman was taken to the Dana property and she stopped at a point on the edge of a clearing where she said Pearles had told her to stay while he went to the Dana home. Repeating her confession as she traced alleged movements, she said that on the night of the murder that Pearls soon returned, bearing an overcoat, which he said Dana had given him. Taking a shot cut across a boyou, they started toward the Merrill home. Across the bayou and in the woods, they were joined by Edgar Newell, a negro.

"Pearls, she declared, told them that Dana and Miss Dockery would follow on to show them how to enter the Merrill home.

"They approached the house, she said, and upon reaching the front entrance, Pearles led them under the house, through an opening at the left of the gallery steps. After remaining a short time, Pearls took Newell out with him, telling her to stay until he called. In a little while, the negress said, he called her out and at that time she saw Dana and Miss Dockery near an automobile which stood near the gallery of the Merrill home.

"Pearls, according to her statement, entered the house. In a minute or two there was a scream followed by a shot, and the others rushed into the house. By the time they got inside there was another shot, she said.

"In a minute or two, 'I don't know how long,' she said, 'Edgar Newell came out with a lamp and handed it to me, telling me to hold it. He went back and the next thing I knew Pearls, Newell and Mr. Dana came out carrying the body of Miss Merrill.

She Carried Lamp.

" 'They put me in front with the lamp and started down the walkway. At one place they put her down but picked her up again and carried her over to the thicket where they put her body.' "

The sheriff also said: "She said that Pearls told her he had gotten $75 out of the house."

It was also stated by Sheriff Roberts, that while the woman had claimed that she had not entered the Merrill home, but was left outside as a lookout, in re-enacting the murder he had insisted that she go in the building with a view to refreshing her memory. He said:

"Upon entering the dining room, I asked her where Miss Merrill's bedroom was located. With little hesitation she pointed to a door which was closed but which opened from the dining room into the bedroom of Miss Merrill. I asked if she had not told me on a previous occasion of some bloodstains which she had seen somewhere and asked her to point out the place she had seen them. She appeared a little hazy but after a moment or two led the way from the dining room to the hall which connects with the gallery, where the woman was found. In addition to part of the week to assist in the investigation.

greatest amount of blood was found this, she pointed out the spot where the night of the murder, and where Sheriff Roberts refused to comment the second pistol bullet was dug out of her confession. of the wall.

"In retracing movements of persons she claims to have participated in the crime, she was directed to point out the place where Miss Merrill's body was thrown. Without any suggestion on our part whatever, she led directly to the thicket, and although highly excited, and expressing great terror, pointed to the exact spot where the body of the dead

It was learned from the sheriff that it is probable that Maurice O'Neal, chief of the bureau of identification of the New Orleans police department, will come here the latter

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JACKSON, MISS., Aug. 23.—(AP)—A negro woman who said she held an oil lamp while a negro man killed Jane Surget Merrill, wealthy recluse, and a third negro aided in removing the body from the Merrill plantation home, was held for safekeeping here tonight as officers continued to unravel the ramifications of the State's most sensational crime in recent years.

The negro woman, Emily Burns, rooming-house keeper of Natchez, made the confession early today in her cell in Natchez jail, officers reported, and almost immediately afterwards she was spirited away and brought here with Edgar Newell, negro roomer in her home whom she implicated.

The purported confession said that she, Newell and George Pearles, another negro, entered the Merrill mansion on the night of Aug. 4 to rob the eccentric spinster and that Pearles "did not intend to kill Miss Merrill, although he shot her twice." When they realized the shots had proved fatal, the body was carried out of the house by Pearles and Newell, the statement said.

Three days later Pearles was killed when resisting arrest at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Discovery of Miss Merrill's body resulted in charges of murder being filed against Richard Dana and his housekeeper, Miss Octavia Dockery, eccentrics who lived in a tumbled down mansion adjoining the Merrill estate, but Dana and Miss Dockery have been released on their own recognizance.

Sheriff C. P. Roberts, of Natchez, who questioned Emily Burns and Newell in the jail here declined to comment on that part of the purported confession in which the negro woman said Pearles went to Dana's farm prior to the slaying and there picked up an overcoat which was later found in Miss Merrill's home.

Fingerprint experts, whose first reports resulted in the arrests of Dana and Miss Dockery also continued to withhold their final report.

County Atty. Joseph Brown, of Natchez, said no progress had been made in a search for a mysterious "Mr. Austin," of Jackson, who on Aug. 11 called on Mrs. Nellie Grist, at Greenfield, Ind. and told her of Miss Merrill's death. Mrs. Grist said she was a bare acquaintance of Miss Merrill.

MURDER AT NATCHEZ RE-ENACTED BY NEGRO

Woman Implicates Others In Story to Sheriff.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Aug. 26.—With only the pale light of the moon filtering through the moss-draped water oaks to illuminate the scene and the beams of the officers' flashlights to light her pathway, Emily Burns, negress, confessed accessory to the murder of Miss Jane Surget Merrill, late last night and early today, re-enacted the murder at the scene of the crime, retracing on the grounds of Glenburney and Glenwood, the Merrill and Dana estates, respectively, all movements of the persons she claims to have taken part in the crime.

This grim drama was staged, as realistically as possible, Sheriff C. P. Roberts, under circumstances calculated to coincide with those under which the slaying was actually done. Even the hour was the same.

The mysterious movements of the officers about the Dana place frightened Miss Octavia Dockery, known as the "goat woman," intensely. Miss Dockery, who, with Richard Dana, the "wild man," stands charged with the murder of Miss Merrill, was recently released with her ward, on her own recognizance from the Adams County jail. Miss Dockery sought the assistance of A. S. Dickson, a neighbor, who acted as custodian of the Dana property during the time that she and Dana were confined in jail.

Sheriff Tells of Re-enactment.

When asked regarding the murder scene, Sheriff Roberts said:

"The woman was taken to the Dana property and she stopped at a point on the edge of a clearing where she said Pearles had told her to stay while he went to the Dana home. Repeating her confession as she traced alleged movements, she said that on the night of the murder that Pearls soon returned, bearing an overcoat, which he said Dana had given him. Taking a shot cut across a boyou, they started toward the Merrill home. Across the bayou and in the woods, they were joined by Edgar Newell, a negro.

"Pearls, she declared, told them that Dana and Miss Dockery would follow on to show them how to enter the Merrill home.

"They approached the house, she said, and upon reaching the front entrance, Pearles led them under the house, through an opening at the left of the gallery steps. After remaining a short time, Pearls took Newell out with him, telling her to stay until he called. In a little while, the negress said, he called her out and at that time she saw Dana and Miss Dockery near an automobile which stood near the gallery of the Merrill home.

"Pearls, according to her statement, entered the house. In a minute or two there was a scream followed by a shot, and the others rushed into the house. By the time they got inside there was another shot, she said.

"In a minute or two, 'I don't know how long,' she said, 'Edgar Newell came out with a lamp and handed it to me, telling me to hold it. He went back and the next thing I knew Pearls, Newell and Mr. Dana came out carrying the body of Miss Merrill.

She Carried Lamp.

"'They put me in front with the lamp and started down the walkway. At one place they put her down but picked her up again and carried her over to the thicket where they put her body.'"

The sheriff also said: "She said that Pearls told her he had gotten $75 out of the house."

It was also stated by Sheriff Roberts, that while the woman had claimed that she had not entered the Merrill home, but was left outside as a lookout, in re-enacting the murder he had insisted that she go in the building with a view to refreshing her memory. He said:

"Upon entering the dining room, I asked her where Miss Merrill's bedroom was located. With little hesitation she pointed to a door which was closed but which opened from the dining room into the bedroom of Miss Merrill. I asked if she had not told me on a previous occasion of some bloodstains which she had seen somewhere and asked her to point out the place she had seen them. She appeared a little hazy but after a moment or two led the way from the dining room to the hall which connects with the gallery, where the woman was found. In addition to part of the week to assist in the investigation.

The woman was found in the greatest amount of blood was found the night of the murder, and where the lamp was found after the murder, the lamp which she said she had carried when the body of Miss Merrill was brought from the house."

Sheriff Roberts refused to comment on the Burns woman's enactment of her confession.

It was learned from the sheriff that it is probable that Maurice O'Neal, chief of the bureau of identification of the New Orleans police department, will come here the latter

Killings-1932

Negro Train Fireman Is Fifth Victim Of Slayers

NATCHEZ, Miss., May 22.—(AP)—Will Harvey, negro fireman on the Y. and M. V. Railroad, was killed here today by three shots fired from a shotgun charged with buckshot at close range.

At the coroner's inquest R. D. Maxey, a white man, and Paulina Orangby, a negro woman, said that the killing occurred about 4 a.m. today. They testified that while Harvey was walking along the street an automobile pulled up to the curb opposite him, someone called out attracting Harvey's attention and a gun was fired. Maxey said that as Harvey fell he heard one of the three occupants of the car say "I got him," whereupon the machine drove off.

Police Chief M. P. Ryan, who is investigating the killing with special agents of the railroad, said Harvey was the fifth negro train fireman to be killed in this section in the last few months.

CONVICTION OF YUEL LEE APPEALED

5-7-32

BALTIMORE, Md., May 5—(By CNA)—The first legal steps in the appeal of Yuel Lee (Orphan Jones), farm hand who was sentenced to death by a court in Towson, Md., on a charge of murder were made last week when the records of the case were filed with the Court of Appeals in Annapolis.

The appeal is being conducted by the International Labor Defense, which defended Lee at his trial at Towson in January.

Lee was convicted for the murder of Green Davis, white farmer, and his family, last October. He was barely saved from a lynch mob during the reign of terror that swept the Eastern Shore at the time. He was at first denied the right to a change of venue and to choose his own lawyer. These elementary rights were won only after a bitter legal struggle by attorneys.

At the trial at Towson in January, the court refused to allow Negroes to sit on the jury in spite of the fight made by the defense counsel. An all-white jury took only 34 minutes to find Lee "guilty."

I. C. OFFERS REWARD IN NEGROES' DEATHS

NATCHEZ, Miss., May 31.—(AP)—The Illinois Central and Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroads have offered a reward of $5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the slaying of five Y. & M. V. negro firemen in recent months.

The reward was announced here following the murder of Will Harvey, negro fireman, on a Natchez business street last week by a group of men who swept up to a curbing in an automobile and mowed the negro down with shotgun fire.

Several of the firemen were shot in the cabs of their locomotives.

White Firem'n Under Arrest

Accused Being Member of Gang Who Killed FIVE NEGRO FIREMEN Because They Refused to Give Up Jobs

Natchez, Miss., June 1—Finger-prints found on an exploded shell today brought the first arrest after a four-months' hunt for a gang of notorious terrorist and night riders, accused of killing five Negroes over the state becauseof labor troubles.

Charles B. Coon, 32, white fireman for the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, was arrested and charged with the murder of Will Harvey, Negro on May 22. The arrest was the first since white firemen began their fight to induce Negroes to give up their jobs to white men, last February. The Illinois Central Railroad has posted $5,000 reward for the capture of the terrorists.

Coon is well known among railroad men of this section. His fingerprints will be compared with those found on a shell that dropped from the gun of the assassins who murdered Harvey in the street here.

Federal, state, city and railroad authorities have been investigating the outbreak, one of the boldest in the criminal history of Mississippi.

Freight trains have been flagged with trainmen's fusees, and Negro firemen removed and executed. Snipers have poured buckshot into train cabs, killing Negroes and missing white engineers with astounding accuracy. In addition to the five murdered Negroes, three were badly wounded and others were reported to have been flogged, tarred and feathered and threatened. Few specific cases came to the attention of officials, however.

The strife reached a climax on May 22 when the fighting was carried into the Natchez street and Harvey slain in gangland fashion by men who rode past in automobiles.

WHITE MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF NEGRO FIREMAN

Natchez, Miss., June 2—After a five months' hunt for a band of terrorists who have shot down and killed five Negro firemen and wounded other employes, fingerprints found on an exploded shell Wednesday brought the first arrest. 6-4-32

Charles B. Coon, white fireman for the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad, was arrested and charged with the death of Will Harvey, the latest victim of the terrorists, who was killed when shot down on the streets here May 22nd as he was leaving his job for home after a run.

White firemen in Mississippi started a fight some months ago in an effort to force Negro firemen to give up their jobs to whites. The I. C. Railroad has offered a reward of $5,000 for capture of the terroritsts, and Coon is the first to be taken into custody charged with the crime.

Mississippi Negro Gets Life On Murder Charge

6-3-32

JACKSON, MISS., June 2.—(AP)—A jury in Hinds County Court today returned a verdict of guilty in the trial of Andrew Minor, negro, charged with the murder of Charles Tripes, 44, Jackson merchant, who was slain when he surprised a robber in his store last February.

On the jury's failure to agree on punishment, Minor was sentenced to life imprisonment. The State had demanded the death penalty. The negro was arrested recently in Akron, Ohio., and returned here.

N. A. A. C. P. AND DEPT. OF JUSTICE TO FIGHT TERROR

White Mississippians Condemn Savagely Attacks

6-4-32

NEW YORK.—Efforts are in progress by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to end the reign of terror in Mississippi in which Negro trainment have been murdered and many Negroes terrorized by whites seeking to displace colored people in jobs. To date eight men have been shot while passing through Mississippi as firemen on trains.

The N. A. A. C. P. is in touch with forces operating to arouse public sentiment in Mississippi against these outrages and has received copy of an editorial from the Jackson, Miss., Daily News which issues a warning against the terrorization of Negro workers.

5TH FIREMAN KILLED

'PUT ON THE SPOT" AT 4 A. M., NEAR RAILROAD YARDS — 4 OTHERS OF SAME CO. HAVE BEEN SLAIN BECAUSE WHITES WANT THE JOBS.

Natchez, Miss., June 2, 1932—(By ANP)—Will Harvey of Vicksburg fireman of the Y. and M. V. railroad was mysteriously slain on a street here within a few minutes after he had arrived from Harriston on the run to which he was recently assigned. Harvey was shot down in front of the Holy Family Church within two blocks of the railroad yards. The killing occurred after 4 o'clock in the morning. 6-4-32

Three shots were fired from a shotgun at close range.

Chief of Police M. P. Ryan said that Harvey is the fifth Colored fireman of the Y. M. V. killed in recent months. The officer said three had been slain in the vicinity of Vicksburg and one at Baton Rouge. The officer declined to give any theory as to who might be responsible but declared: "I am not going to let any killing squad commit murder in Natchez and get away with it."

Gangster methods were used in killing Harvey, according to witnesses who testified at the inquest. R. D. Maxey and Paulina Orangby, who witnessed the killing, told the coroner's jury that Harvey was "put on the spot."

ARREST ONE FOR DEATH OF MISS. FIREMAN

White Man Is Accused of Murder of Negro Railroad Worker

6-15-32

NATCHEZ, Miss., (ANP)—Finger-prints found on an exploded shell brought the first arrest after a four months' hunt for a gang of murderous terroists and night riders, accused of killing five Negroes in the state because of labor troubles.

Charles B. Coon, 32, white fireman of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad, was arrested and charged with the murder of Will Harvey, a colored fireman on May 22.

The arrest was the first since the white firemen began their fight to induce Negroes to give up their jobs to white men last February. The Illinois Central railroad has posted $5000 reward for the capture of the terroists.

Coon is well known among railroad men of this section. His finger prints will be compared with those found on a shell that dropped from the gun of the assassin who murdered Harvey in the street here.

Federal, state, city and railroad authorities have been investigating the out-break, one of the boldest in the criminal history of Mississippi.

News
Jackson, Miss.
MAY 25 1932

FIND THE MURDERERS

The business men of Natchez showed a commendable spirit when they held a mass meeting and adopted resolutions deploring the assassination of a negro fireman in that city Sunday morning, and pledging assistance to the authorities in finding the murderers.

In an editorial relative to the cowardly crime, the Natchez Democrat says:

> The killing cannot be justified, and when such a condition arises as resulted in the murder of this negro, who, according to all the facts thus far produced, was simply trying to provide bread for his family, the life of no man can be considered safe, be he white or black. This crime calls for action. Action by law-abiding citizens of Natchez. Action by state and county officers. Action by Federal officers if necessary.

Eight negro firemen have been assassinated in cold blood in Mississippi during the past five months. Nearly all of the crimes were committed at points along the line of the Y. & M. V. road.

If the proper energy is shown by the authorities, it should not be a difficult matter to find the assassins.

Obviously, these crimes are being committed by white men who want the jobs of these negroes—white men who resort to threats, intimidation, and finally to acts of violence.

With the motive for murder so plain, locating the murderers merely requires the exercise of some common sense.

Negro Rail Fireman Killed in Tennessee

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 6.—(AP)—Clarence Brooker, 45-year-old negro fireman for the Illinois Central railroad, was shot to death today as the local freight train on which he was employed passed through Shandy, four miles from Bolivar, Tenn. Deputy U. T. Cooper said two white men fled after the shooting.

News
Jackson, Miss.
MAY 27 1932

THEY ARE ON TRIAL

Authorities in the counties of Mississippi where negro firemen have been assassinated in recent months may not realize it, but they are on trial before the bar of public opinion.

More than that, the civilization of the white man is on trial in Mississippi, and if the officials fail to find and have indicted these assassins, they should resign their positions.

While the hearts of Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh were bleeding with grief, praying for the return of their first born, all the world trembled in fear and suspense, not knowing just when the gates of society would be let down to the devouring wolves that eat out the foundation of the temple of safety and protection; injecting doubt in home life which in turn weakens all phases of human progress.

American people have looked upon crime as a casual happening with no plan or study, specifically designed for people possessing a particular color and residing in certain climes. The kidnaping of Baby Lindy is conclusive proof that crime knows no racial distinction nor class discrimination.

The growth of crime is similar to that of a weed and the mere trimming of its branches will not destroy its activity nor lessen its longevity. In many ways it is given opportunity to thrive by cultivating the roots even though they are covered heavily with the dirt of selfish power and racial prejudice which enables them to become watered with the blood of innocent citizens.

Let us not forget that:

"The laws of changeless justice bind
Oppressed with oppressed;
And close as sin and suffering joined
We march to fate abreast."

Nothing is ever gained by closing our eyes to unpleasant facts. Within recent months eight negro firemen on railway systems in this state have been shot down in cold blood. Their only offense was that they were holding jobs that white men evidently wanted. They were peaceful, hard-working, law-abiding negroes, entitled to the full protection of the law in their God-given right to earn their living in the sweat of their faces.

These negroes were our wards. They exercised but few of the rights of citizenship. They did not vote, they took no active part in civic affairs, they did not lobby in legislative halls, and they did not make themselves vocal about the prevalent depression. On the contrary they went humbly and faithfully to their daily tasks, offering no protest when their wages were slashed or working hours reduced. And yet, because white men coveted their jobs, they had to die.

The Daily News does not believe that public sentiment in Mississippi will stand for an orgy of gangsterism and racketeering similar to that which has disgraced Chicago, New York, and other large cities; that our citizens will view with complacency the killing of human beings, no matter how black their skins, when no semblance of an offense has been committed.

To tolerate such a condition of affairs means that our own children will grow up without respect for law and order. Worse still, it means that we are heading for anarchy. An overwhelming majority of the negroes of Mississippi are peaceful and law-abiding. They are in nowise responsible for existing economic conditions. They have had naught to do with bringing about depression. If the world is in a mess, the white man must assume full blame therefor, and the negroes merely rank among the sufferers.

The least we can give the black race is a square deal. That is all its members have asked, and nothing else will suffice. It is high time for the government under the dome of the capitol to take cognizance of these killings and offer substantial rewards for

HOLD WHITE MAN IN SLAYING OF MISSISSIPPI FIREMAN

NATCHEZ, Miss., June 9—(ANP)—Two white men, in addition to Charles B. Coon of Vicksburg, have been arrested in connection with the murder of Negro firemen on the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley railroad, according to Sheriff Clarence Roberts. One of the arrests was made at Vicksburg and another at Canton, Miss. The first arrest in the campaign of intimidation against Negro firemen was made after Will Harvey, colored fireman, had been shot down on one of the main streets of this city.

R.R.'S OFFER $5,000 FOR FIREMEN'S MURDERERS

NATCHEZ, Miss., June 6 (ANP.)—Investigation and warnings having proven fruitless, the Illinois Central and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroads have joined in offering a reward of $5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the men responsible for the murder of five firemen on the Y. and M. V. road in the last few months. In addition, several firemen have been beaten seriously.

The posting of the award came after the murder of Will Harvey last week. Harvey was shot down in the street here by men who drew up in an automobile and opened up on him as he was walking along the street. Other firemen have been killed on

MISSISSIPPI NIGHT RIDER HELD IN MURDER

NATCHEZ, Miss.—One white man has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with the slaying of five colored men in a labor war here.

Charles B. Coon, 32, a white railroad fireman for the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, was charged with the murder of Will Harvex on May 22 and may be connected with other murders. Coon is a member of a group of night-riders who have been terrorizing colored railroad workers in the Mississippi Valley in an attempt to force them off of jobs so white men can replace them.

Fingerprints found on an exploded shell brought about the first arrest in connection with the killings when Charles B. Coon, 32, a white fireman for the Mississippi railroad, was taken into custody last week and charged with slaying Harvey.

Officers Probe Shooting Of Mississippi Fireman

BATON ROUGE, LA., Sept. 12.—(AP)—Sheriff R. L. Pettit and Special Agent J. W. Reed, of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, tonight continued efforts to identify an assailant who Sunday shot and wounded Grant Johnson, negro fireman, in the latest of a protracted series of attacks on negro Yazoo and Mississippi Valley employees in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Johnson was fired upon a short distance north of Baton Rouge while in the engine cab of his train southbound from Vicksburg to New Orleans. He was painfully but not seriously wounded in the hand and neck by buckshot. John Tusson, veteran white engineer, narrowly escaped being hit.

Johnson, one of the oldest firemen on the line, continued with his train to New Orleans.

Killings-1932

STATE TO ASK DEATH FOR MEN WHO MADE MACHINE THAT KILLED JANITOR HERO

Call 1-15-32
Kansas City, Mo.

Sacrificing his own life, rather than endanger the lives of patrons of the theater where he worked, Frank Alexander, 25, 1332 Paseo, janitor at Midland theatre (white), Thirteenth and Main streets, was instantly killed Monday night about 11 o'clock when he was trying, it is believed, to remove a package containing a bomb from the building when it exploded in his hands.

The police obtained confessions from three of the persons implicated in the bomb plot. They are Ermal J. Lime and E. M. Evans, officials of one of the rival unions who admitted that they manufactured the bomb Monday afternoon for the Royal theater instead of the Midland.

The third confession was obtained from John E. Gillespie who delivered the bomb, but insisted that he thought he was delivering a package of Whiskey to the theater.

The state will ask for the death penalty for the bombers.

The Royal theater was to have been boomed, but when Gillespie found the balcony roped off he was sent by Lime to the Midland instead.

According to Lime's signed confession, the bombing outrage is an outgrowth of the war that has been going on for months between rival operator's factions.

The explosion occurred approximately five minutes after the last show crowd had emptied the theatre.

Body Hurled Backward

He had reached the stairway with the bomb and had presumably taken a few steps downward when the detonation was heard. His body was hurled backward several feet, striking the wall. The center rail of the staircase was wrecked near the head of the stairs.

His mid-section had been blown out by the explosion.

Two sections of a huge mirror at the north side of the lobby were shattered and the face and glass of a large ornamental clock occupying a marble stand near the stairway on the mezzanine floor was broken out.

Close to the body of Alexander were found three small wheels with gear teeth and a coil spring, the kind that is used in small clocks. Investigators believe that the bomb had a timing mechanism.

Dr.. Turner Finds Body Mutilated

Dr. L. W. Turner, deputy coroner, arrived following the explosion and took charge of the janitor's body.

According to Dr. Turner, when he arrived at the theatre, at about 11:30 Monday night, he found the body had been horribly mutilated by the explosion.

"Evidently he was carrying the package," the coroner said, "in both hands in front of him when the bomb exploded.

Mr. Alexander lived with his wife, Mrs. Alma Alexander, 1332 the Paseo. He was a native of Louisiana and had made his home in Kansas City for the past ten years, except for the time that he worked at a theatre in Chicago where he was married three years ago.

A representative of The Call talked with John McManus, manager of the Midland theatre, Monday and Mr McManus said of his employe that he was one of the most reliable men the system.

Employer Pays Tribute

"It's a terrible thing," Mr. McManus said, "for Alexander was one of the best workers we ever had. He was here when the house opened and has been here ever since. We deeply regret the tragedy that has happened."

His last employment began there over a year ago. He has no children. The deceased was of likeable disposition. He was a small man in size weighing about 135 pounds, and was about five and one half feet tall.

He is survived by his widow, his mother who lived for awhile in St. Louis but lives now at Shreveport, and a sister who teaches school in Shreveport.

Mr. Alexander was a nephew of H. S. Davis, head of the Mosaic Templars of Louisiana. Funeral arrangements await word from Shreveport. He worshiped regularly at St. Monica's Catholic church.

Mob Forced Error In Missouri Case, N.A.A.C.P. Proves

Courier 3-5-32
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Special Investigator, Working Secretly, Discovers Fact In Henry County Killing—Lynching Plot Uncovered.

NEW YORK, Mar. 3—Emmett Gallie, 30, and Eual Richardson, 22, will get a new trial on a charge of murdering an aged white woman near Windsor, Mo., in October, 1930, according to a decision handed down last week by the Missouri supreme court, sitting at Jefferson City, Mo.

The supreme court reversed the decision of the Henry county circuit court rendered Nov. committing this error, had denied the 1930, and remanded the case for two defendants a fair trial. retrial.

Investigated by N. A. A. C. P. The special investigator sent in Gallie and Richardson were con-jointly by the national office of the victed at Clinton, Mo., the countyN. A. A. C. P. and the Kansas City seat of Henry county, Missouri, atMo. branch of the association, inter- a trial where the mob spirit wasviewed dozens of white people in rampant. The case was so raw thatWindsor and Clinton and declared the Nattional Association for the Ad- in her summary that there had been vancement of Colored People sent a plot to lynch the two men. secret investigator into Henry county So vicious was the mob spirit that to uncover the truth. Wiley Shockley, father-in-law of Gal-

In addition to this, the national of- lie, and his wife and children were fice of the N. A. A. C. P. paid fordriven from Windsor, where they the cost of printing and filing thehad lived for more than 25 years, briefs in the Missouri supreme court by threats against their lives.

On the day of the trial the mer- Relatives of Mrs. Elizabeth Neichants of Windsor, Mo., declared a man, the dead woman, discovered her half holiday and the little town went body and hired a private detective in a body to Clinton to attend the to come in from Kansas City to track trial. More than 2,000 persons sur- down the murderer. The case against rounded the courthouse, some of Gallie and Richardson was largely them with ropes under their coats. manufactured and circumstantial evi- The death penalty was demanded and dence. There were many rumors among so insistent was the mob spirit that colored people that the Neiman famJudge W. L. P. Burney denied the ily might be trying to hide something defense attorneys a continuance, as the dead woman was not on fearing the mob would take action if speaking terms with the rest of her the court delayed. relatives in the county.

Mob Forced Error

It was this error of the court, this failure to grant the defense attorneys a continuance so they could perfect a defense, which caused the state supreme court to reverse the decision. At the time of the trial Attorney Frederick F. Wesner, defending the boys, told the court he had had no time to consult with his clients and had only a hurried conference with them 20 minutes before court time. He asked a continuance so he could map a defense. Judge Burney denied this.

The supreme court last week held that the lower court erred in not granting a continuance and that in

No date has been set as yet for the retrial of the case.

GALLIE DIES IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON

Call 8-19-32
Kansas City, Mo.

With Eual Richardson Was

Serving Life Term for Windsor Murder

JEFFERSON CITY.—(Special to The Call)—Emmett Gallie, 34, serving a life sentence in the Missouri state penitentiary for the slaying of Mrs. Elizabeth Neiman, white, Windsor, Mo., in October, 1930, died in the prison hospital on Sunday, August 14.

The Gallie family is one of the old and highly respected families of Georgetown, Mo., in Pettis county. Caleb Gallie, grandfather of Emmett, was a successful farmer, the ex-slave of Gen. George R. Smith.

Funeral Wednesday

Gallie's body was picked up here by the F. D. Ferguson undertaking parlor of Sedalia and carried to Georgetown, for the funeral. Funeral services were held Wednesday at 2 p. m. at the M. E. church.

Gallie is survived by: Mrs. Vivian Shockley Gallie, widow, Kansas City, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gallie of the home, parents; Mrs. Lena Nurse and Mrs Stella Bars, sisters, Georgetown; Wilson Gallie, brother, Georgetown; two brothers and one sister of Chicago, and an aged grandmother, Mrs. C. Lindsey, of Georgetown.

Victim of Law

Gallie was a victim of the Missouri law which does not allow a change from one judicial district to another for a court hearing. For instance, the trial of the lynchers at Maryville would undoubtedly have been prejudiced in their favor in Maryville itself. A similar attitude toward them would have prevailed in any part of that judicial district. If the case were taken out of the district, possibilities for a fair trial would be much greater.

Gallie and Eual Richardson were jointly accused of the murder of Mrs. Neiman. Their preliminary hearing was held in Clinton, Mo. on October 25 1930, without counsel and to the accompaniment of a vicious lawless sentiment on the part of the white people of the surrounding county.

Bound over to the grand court without bond, Gallie and Richardson were both sent to Kansas City for safekeeping. Richardson was kept there and Gallie was taken on to Warrensburg. The trial was held in Clinton, Mo., October 31 1930. Frederick Wesner of Sedalia was counsel.

Cheer Hanging Sentence

While the white spectators clapped and cheered, the jury brought in a verdict of guilty and a sentence of hanging was imposed. Ropes were in evidence in the crowd and it was freely predicted

Killings-1932

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He had reached the stairway with the bomb and had presumably taken a few steps downward when the detonation was heard. His body was hurled backward several feet, striking the wall. The center rail of the staircase was wrecked near the head of the stairs.

His mid-section had been blown out by the explosion.

Two sections of a huge mirror at the north side of the lobby were shattered and the face and glass of a large ornamental clock occupying a marble stand near the stairway on the mezzanine floor was broken out.

Close to the body of Alexander were found three small wheels with gear teeth and a coil spring, the kind that is used in small clocks. Investigators believe that the bomb had a timing mechanism.

Dr. Turner Finds Body Mutilated

Dr. L. W. Turner, deputy coroner, arrived following the explosion and took charge of the janitor's body.

According to Dr. Turner, when he arrived at the theatre, at about 11:30 Monday night, he found the body had been horribly mutilated by the explosion.

"Evidently he was carrying the package," the coroner said, "in both hands in front of him when the bomb exploded.

Mr. Alexander lived with his wife, Mrs. Alma Alexander, 1332 the Paseo. He was a native of Louisiana and had made his home in Kansas City for the past ten years, except for the time that he worked at a theatre in Chicago where he was married three years ago.

A representative of The Call talked with John McManus, manager of the Midland theatre. Monday and Mr McManus said of his employe that he was one of the most reliable men in the system.

Employer Pays Tribute

"It's a terrible thing," Mr. McManus said, "for Alexander was one of the best workers we ever had. He was here when the house opened and has been here ever since. We deeply regret the tragedy that has happened."

His last employment began there over a year ago. He has no children. The deceased was of likeable disposition. He was a small man in size weighing about 135 pounds, and was about five and one half feet tall.

He is survived by his widow, his mother who lived for awhile in St. Louis but lives now at Shreveport and a sister who teaches school in Shreveport.

Mr. Alexander was a nephew of H. S. Davis, head of the Mosaic Templars of Louisiana. Funeral arrangements await word from Shreveport. He worshiped regularly at St. Monica's Catholic church.

Mob Forced Error In Missouri Case, N.A.A.C.P. Proves

Coroner 3-5-32
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Special Investigator, Working Secretly, Discovers Fact In Henry County Killing—Lynching Plot Uncovered.

NEW YORK, Mar. 3—Emmett Gallie, 30, and Eual Richardson, 22, will get a new trial on a charge of murdering an aged white woman near Windsor, Mo., in October, 1930, according to a decision handed down last week by the Missouri supreme court, sitting at Jefferson City, Mo.

The supreme court reversed the decision of the Henry county circuit court rendered Nov committing this error, had denied the 1930, and remanded the case for two defendants a fair trial. retrial.

Investigated by N. A. A. C. P.

Gallie and Richardson were convicted at Clinton, Mo., the county seat of Henry county, Missouri, at a trial where the mob spirit was rampant. The case was so raw that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sent a secret investigator into Henry county to uncover the truth.

In addition to this, the national office of the N. A. A. C. P. paid for the cost of printing and filing the briefs in the Missouri supreme court.

On the day of the trial the merchants of Windsor, Mo., declared a half holiday and the little town went in a body to Clinton to attend the trial. More than 2,000 persons surrounded the courthouse, some of them with ropes under their coats. The death penalty was demanded and so insistent was the mob spirit that Judge W. L. P. Burney denied the defense attorneys a continuance, fearing the mob would take action if the court delayed.

Mob Forced Error

It was this error of the court, this failure to grant the defense attorneys a continuance so they could perfect a defense, which caused the state supreme court to reverse the decision. At the time of the trial Attorney Frederick F. Wesner, defending the boys, told the court he had had no time to consult with his clients and had only a hurried conference with them 20 minutes before court time. He asked a continuance so he could map a defense. Judge Burney denied this.

The supreme court last week held that the lower court erred in not granting a continuance and that in

Lynching Plot Uncovered

The special investigator sent in by the national office of the N. A. A. C. P. and the Kansas City, Mo. branch of the association, interviewed dozens of white people in Windsor and Clinton and declared in her summary that there had been a plot to lynch the two men.

So vicious was the mob spirit that Wiley Shockley, father-in-law of Gallie and Richardson, was largely responsible for the murderer. The case against Gallie and Richardson was largely circumstantial evidence. There were many things among colored people that the Neiman family might be trying to hide something as the dead woman was not on speaking terms with the rest of her relatives in the county.

No date has been set as yet for the retrial of the case.

Call 1-15-32
Kansas City, Mo.

GALLIE DIES IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON

Call 2-14-32
Kansas City, Mo.

With Eual Richardson Was

Serving Life Term for Windsor Murder

JEFFERSON CITY.—(Special to The Call)—Emmett Gallie, 34, serving a life sentence in the Missouri state penitentiary for the slaying of Mrs. Elizabeth Neiman, white, Windsor, Mo., in October, 1930, died in the prison hospital on Sunday, August 14.

The Gallie family is one of the old and highly respected families of Georgetown, Mo., in Pettis county. Caleb Gallie, grandfather of Emmett, was a successful farmer, the ex-slave of Gen. George R. Smith.

Funeral Wednesday

Gallie's body was picked up here by the F. D. Ferguson undertaking parlor of Sedalia and carried to Georgetown, for the funeral. Funeral services were held Wednesday at 2 p. m. at the M. E. church.

Gallie is survived by: Mrs. Vivian Shockley Gallie, widow, Kansas City, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gallie of the home, parents; Mrs. Lena Nurse and Mrs Stella Bars, sisters, Georgetown; Wilson Gallie, brother, Georgetown; two brothers and one sister of Chicago, and an aged grandmother, Mrs. C. Lindsey, of Georgetown.

Victim of Law

Gallie was a victim of the Missouri law which does not allow a change from one judicial district to another for a court hearing. For instance, the trial of the lynchers at Maryville would undoubtedly have been prejudiced in their favor in Maryville itself. A similar attitude toward them would have prevailed in any part of that judicial district. If the case were taken out of the district, possibilities for a fair trial would be much greater.

Gallie and Eual Richardson were jointly accused of the murder of Mrs. Neiman. Their preliminary hearing was held in Clinton, Mo on October 25 1930, without counsel and to the accompaniment of a vicious lawless sentiment on the part of the white people of the surrounding county.

Bound over to the grand court without bond, Gallie and Richardson were both sent to Kansas City for safekeeping. Richardson was kept there and Gallie was taken on to Warrensburg. The trial was held in Clinton, Mo., October 31 1930. Frederick Wesner of Sedalia was counsel.

Cheer Hanging Sentence

While the white spectators clapped and cheered the jury brought in a verdict of guilty and a sentence of hanging was imposed. Ropes were in evidence in the crowd and it was freely predicte

Call 2-14-32
Kansas City, Mo.

No one was introduced at the trial who could definitely connect the men with the crime. No trace was found of the $35 in silver dollars supposed to have been taken from the dead woman. No one men

...ttorney, was ...ed on Wednesday that the case ...ld Friday. He had no ...to develop his case and the ...would not grant him a con...

...ned the day of the crime. It is believed that he had an had for years maintained a bitter feud with her brother, a neighbor.

...ed Confession

...ed on the story of events ...ed the fact that the dead woman ...ed with the story under...

...ed Sentence Changed

...ed in the story of the ...ed by 13-year-old ...ed by authorities and ...ed appeared for trial, had ...ed from the treatment...

...ed at the hands of ...

preme court reversed the decision and granted a new trial.

The trial was held in Osceola, Mo., in June and the sentence was changed to life imprisonment. Richardson is serving his sentence in prison.

BRENTWOOD POLICE

The county grand jury has indicted a Brentwood police officer, charging him with assault with a deadly weapon on the life of a Negro youth, one Levi Graham, of Webster Groves whom the officer shot in the back on the night of August 13 last.

We are reliably informed that evidence presented to the grand jury showed that the officer had shot the youth without any investigation, whatever, on his part to ascertain whether the Negro had been, or was, guilty of any felonious act. This incident has caused a great deal of comment among the Negro residents not only of Webster Groves, but of the entire county.

Several civic and semi-civic organizations among Negroes of the county took an active part in an effort to have the Brentwood police officer, William Skow, indicted because they regarded Officer Skow as a dangerous man to be on the police force in any city in the county. Because of his attitude toward them, many of the colored citizens who would go from Webster Groves to Brentwood and Richmond Heights had great fear for their lives. They had become to look upon the passing through Brentwood as though it were an uncivilized community.

Despite of the fact that the grand jury has indicted Skow and that he is facing a prison sentence, it is rumored that the Board of Aldermen of Brentwood is considering the reinstatement of Officer Skow. In the absence of real facts regarding the question of reinstatement, we are inclined to doubt that the officials of Brentwood would do a thing of that sort because this same officer, William Skow, has the reputation of being "a bad man," easily excited and "quick" on the trigger. It was he who shot a white youth a few years ago and in so doing endangered the lives of many people on a public thoroughfare.

To reinstate Skow, the officials of Brentwood are playing with fire which is likely to spread to the hurt of not only the community of Brentwood, but to the people of the entire county. Brentwood is just emerging from a bad reputation which was brought about under the old fee system of arresting motorists who perchanced to pass through its borders. Therefore, it cannot afford to make the "wrong" mistake by upholding the deeds of one man which are destined to hurt the whole community.

Killings – 1932

White Woman Brutally Murdered In Apartment She Shared With Colored Lover On Bradhurst Ave.

Jilted Prize Fighter Admits Slaying, When Arrested In Hospital Where He Went After Trying To Commit Suicide

One of the most brutal murders in the annals of crime took place Monday afternoon, January 4, when an attractive white woman, Mrs Marjorie Bruttomesso, 27, living with a Negro subway worker as his common-law wife, was found stretched on her bed with her head battered in by a hammer, and her throat cut from ear to ear with a razor.

She had been slain by a jilted prizefighter who afterward tried unsuccessfully to commit suicide.

The murder was discovered by Jasper Holton, who shared the apartment with the murdered woman at 242 Bradhurst avenue, when he returned home from work at 6:15 Monday night. Holton called police of the West 135th street station and detectives rushed to the scene.

Police Absolve Holton

As soon as police arrived they questioned Holton but absolved him of the crime when little Vincent, 7 year old son, and his brother Alfred, 9, told police that E. J. Mckenzie Cole, 23 year old, prize fighter, who lives at 246 West 129th street, had been in their house and had been talking with their mother, the murdered woman.

The children told detectives that Cole had been drinking and that they heard him demand another drink under threat of death. The mother sent the children out to play and that was the last they saw of their mother alive. A short while afterwards, one of the boys went into the house and knocked on the door. It was opened, he said by Cole, who appeared nervous. The boy told Cole that he wanted to get into the house as he was hungry.

Cole told the boy, police say, to go away and play some more, and said that his mother had gone out to the store. The boy insisted on going inside but Cole would not let him and slammed the door behind him and ran down the stairs and escaped. The boy said he could not understand this and went out in the street to wait for his mother.

Took Poison, Saw Show

In the meantime Cole, the confessed slayer, said that he swallowed some poison and went to a show at Times Square, to end it all. The show ended but still the poison apparently had no effect on him, he said, and so he got on the subway to wait for the poison to take its toll.

At Cortlandt street, the slayer said he got off the subway and feeling the effects of the poison, went to the Broad Street Hospital. Physicians worked on him immediately and said that he would recover. He was arrested by detectives, charged with the slaying, and confessed.

Holton, the man with whom Mrs. Bruttomesso lived, said that he and the white woman had lived together for six months. She had her children with her after her estrangement with her husband, Vincent, in Closter, N. J., where she formerly operated the Clover Leaf Tea room.

Entertained Others

Coming to New York, Mrs. Bruttomesso took up her residence in Harlem with Holton at 203 West 119th street. Holton, friends say, was a subway construction worker, and made $25 a day. But while Holton was at work, it was also said, the woman was wont to entertain several taxicab drivers.

At the 119th street address, a man known as "Duke" was said to have threatened the woman's life, and once shot at her and another man. For this, "Duke" was said to have been sentenced to 9 months in jail.

Four months ago, Holton and the woman moved to 242 Bradhurst avenue, and took up their residence there. Neighbors say they got along beautifully, and there never was any trouble. Cole, every once in a while, would call, but his friendship and attentions were discouraged by the woman.

Finally, he told police, he could stand it no longer and killed her.

The dead woman's husband, Vincent, took his children to his New Jeresy home on Monday night after hearing of the crime. The body was removed to the morgue, but whether he will claim it or not, he did not say.

Killings-1932

Fight to Save 15-Year Oid Brooklyn Youth from Death Penalty Following Confessed Killing of Schoolgirl

An effort to save a 15-year old Negro boy from the death penalty was started last week when Robert S. Warner, superintendent of the Children's Aid Society in Brooklyn, announced that he will go to the front for the youth, Robert Smalls of 35 Marion street, Brooklyn, who was arrested Friday by police of the Ralph avenue station for the murder of Florence McDonnell, 5-year old white girl.

After several weeks of intensive detective work, police on Friday RAY 16 ..... said they had obtained a confession to the strangling of the girl whose mutilated body was found on February 4, with a strand of wire tied around her neck in the cellar of 232A Ralph avenue.

Police quoted Smalls as saying: "I killed her because she snitched on me when I played hookey from school." They said that both children attended Public School, No. 70, at Patchen avenue at McDonough street where the dead girl attended kindergarten.

Many Suspects Arrested

Dozens of suspects were brought in by police for questioning when the girl's body was first discovered but all established suitable alibis and were turned loose. At one time police announced they had solved the crime with the arrest of Fred Hicks, 51-year old Negro, and they were prepared to prosecute him when John Hugo, a self-styled Salvation Army captain, came forward with the information that he had seen Hicks with the little girl. After intense questioning by Hugo, he finally admitted that he was lying and Hicks was freed by police.

Police when they arrested Smalls said that he admitted the killing but said that he did not mean to kill her, only to frighten her against further "snitching" on him.

In New York State only one other case is on record where a youth of Smalls' age has been given the death penalty. The Children's Aid Society in going ot the front for the youth will endeavor to have the case handled by the Juvenile Court with a sentence to the reformatory for the crime. If the case goes to the regular court the penalty will be death in the electric chair.

'WILD MAN' SHOT IN GUN BATTLE WITH TROOPERS

Garbed In Tattered Furs; Offered Resistance

LONG LAKE, N. Y. —A posse, headed by Lieut. C. B. McCann of the State troopers, Saturday tracked an unidentified colored man known only as the "wild man" of the Adirondacks, to an abandoned lumber camp, where, in a gun battle, the man was shot to death by the posse.

The man, about 35 years old, apparently had been living in the camp for some time, and was garbed in tattered furs. Because of the deep snow in that region, the body of the dead man could not immediately be brought out by the posse for identification. It was necessary to secure a sled for that purpose and this was done as soon as possible.

The posse included two trappers, who said the "wild man" had threatened them two days before and had shot at them when they came upon him bending over his camp fire. The trappers said his hands and feet were covered with raw rabbit skins and, that he had the appearance of having lived in the wilds a long time.

When the posse reached the lumber camp, Lieut. McCann called to the man to surrender. A shotgun blast was the answer. Opening fire, the posse shot the man in the leg, upon which he escaped through the back window of the camp, taking refuge behind a tree.

In the gun battle which followed, the man was shot to death. Fingerprints were taken, in an effort to determine his identity.

The killing occurred near a spot where Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States in 1901. While on a hunting trip here at that time, Roosevelt first heard of McKinley's death and his own elevation to the Presidency.

Killings-1932

Hold White Woman In N. C. Man's Death

Courier 1-9-32 Pittsburgh Pa

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 7—(ANP)—Ted Powell, a white woman, is being held in the jail here as a result of the shooting to death of Albert Hair, a filling station attendant. It is reported that the Powell woman and two white men, Loftin Tyner and Jess Odum, went to the filling station, where the men engag in a quarrel with Hair. It was reported to the police that while words were flying thick and fast between the men, Miss Powell yelled out to the men, "Shoot the damned scoundrel!"

The woman's command was obeyed and Hair died from the effects of the shooting. She is held in prison as an accessory before the fact of murder. Tyner is being held without bond for the murder and Odum under a $300 bond as a material witness.

ACQUIT WHITE MAN OF KILLING NEGRO

Courier 3-5-32

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., Feb. 25—(By ANP) — A coroner's jury after listening to the evidence relative to the fatal shooting of Walter Reed, on Saturday night by Tom Jenkins, white, decided that the white man was justified in killing Reed.

According to the testimony at the inquest, which was held Tuesday, Reed was attempting to enter the home of Jenkins and was armed with a revolver. The intruder held the pistol in his hand, the police stated and there was one exploded shell in it, but whether he exchanged fire with Jenkins or shot his weapon prior to his house-breaking attempt was not brought out at the hearing.

Jenkins declared that he shot Reed in self-defense and the jury hastily agreed with him, giving as its verdict that Jenkins had shot and killed Reed in self-defense.

Woman Shot To Death By Negro Holdup Men

Courier 11-12-32

GREENSBORO, N. C., Nov. 11.—(AP)—Mrs. Joseph McGowan, 35-year-old mother of two small children, was shot and fatally wounded here tonight when she resisted an attempted holdup of her husband's filling station by three negroes.

Witnesses said the negroes covered persons in the filling station with pistols and commanded them to put up their hands. Mrs. McGowan, they said, seized a pistol kept in the station, and was felled with two shots in the abdomen. She died in a hospital a short time later.

Two negroes, giving their names as Will Gilmer and Edgar Thomas, were arrested as suspects, but they denied knowledge of the shooting.

White Man Shoots Negro In Back

Telegraph 9-21-32

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 19.—(Seeking revenge for a terrific beating given him in a fair fight by Frank Davis, Silas Adams, a white hoodlum, last week shot Davis in the back, and then sped away in a truck occupied by two of his white friends. The shooting took place on the public street in broad daylight with a score of eyewitnesses present. Davis is not badly hurt. The police are looking for Adams.

Pittsburgh Courier

TWO WHITES HELD FOR MANSLAUGHTER

Courier 11/26/32

GREENSBORO, N. C., Dec. 22.—(ANP)—Sherman Handy and Jim Burke, white, were held in jail here Tuesday charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of George Price, who was killed by the automobile in which they were riding Saturday. Following the accident the motorists speeded away but were captured after a race through two counties. Both admitted that their machine struck Price.

Killings-1932

Oklahoma.

ATTLEBORO, MASS.
SUN

DEC 8 - 1932

Hurrah for Boley!

The other day the inhabitants of the all-Negro village of Boley, Oklahoma, gave the people of the United States a striking example of how to deal with bandits.

Three gangsters, one black, two white, entered the bank of Boley and demanded its surrender. The Negro president, though facing the muzzle of a pistol, calmly pulled the alarm. For that, he was shot down. But the Negro cashier had secured a rifle and he shot down the murderer of the bank president. Negro citizens rallying to the alarm that the nervy bank president had sounded, charged the two remaining robbers, killed one and seriously wounded the other.

There you see the way to discourage bank robbing and other forms of hold-ups. The gangsters must be stopped and caught and killed under any circumstances. The job takes courage. It takes a willingness to die if need be. It takes a determination to let nothing interfere with getting results.

That Negro bank president was not afraid to die. He cooly pulled the alarm when the bandits appeared. When asked by one of the gangsters if he had sounded an alarm, he replied defiantly that he had.

"I'll kill you for that," snarled the bandit. His gun blazed and the president crumpled. Undoubtedly that colored bank president expected to be killed when he pulled the alarm, but he did not hesitate.

The average gangster is at heart a dirty, yellow coward. He expects to find his victims unarmed and he expects no resistance. If he had reason to believe that he would meet brave opposition and relentless attack, he would adopt some occupation less hazardous

This country is at war. It is at war with the organized Vandals within its boundaries. There is one way to deal with Vandals. They understand one language—cold steel and hot lead, and they are afraid of courage, for they, themselves, are yellow livered cowards.

If every filling station employe were known to keep a sawed-off shotgun handy, and could be depended upon to use it vigorously with intent to kill if any attempt were made to hold him up, the widely practised profession of looting filling stations would quickly become a lost art.

Suppose all the filling station operators today were replaced with state troopers armed to the teeth and unafraid to shoot. Do you think for a moment that a gangster would go within shouting distance of a filling station except for the legitimate purpose of buying oil and gas?

If this country is to be rid of the gangster, there must be a new attitude on the part of the populace toward the gangster—the attitude of killing the gangster regardless of consequences. Such a policy would cause the deaths of some brave, worthy persons before it became recognized as a policy. But in the long run it would save innocent lives and protect property.

If every community in this country would determinedly treat the gangsters the way the colored folk of Boley, Oklahoma treat them, the gangster business would go out of fashion overnight. Here, I venture to say, is one sure bet: There will never be another attempt to hold up the Negro bank of the Negro village of Boley, Oklahoma.

—W. W.

Killings-1932

Oklahoma

Negro Bankers Frustrate Holdup; Three Dead

BOLEY, OKLA., Nov. 23.—(AP)—Two white gunmen and a negro accomplice fell today before the blazing weapons of residents of this all-negro village who frustrated the attempted robbery of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank.

Enraged by the killing of D. J. Turner, the negro bank president, who pulled a hidden alarm in the presence of the robbers, a sharpshooting bookkeeper dropped one of the holdup men. Townsmen finished the job.

The three robbers, two dead and one wounded dangerously, remained unidentified tonight.

In the words of W W. Riley, cashier of the bank, "there was a regular war" after the first shot was fired by the white man who killed Turner.

Turner was rushed to Okemah, 14 miles away, but died en route. The bodies of the dead bandits, one white man and the negro, and the wounded white robber were taken to Okemah. The wounded robber was shot in the legs, one knee and hip and his body was tattooed with buckshot. Physicians said he had an even chance for recovery.

The negro village of 800 population was excited over the gunfight but townsfolk were proud that they had "cleaned out" the robber gang.

H. C. McCormick, bookkeeper, slipped into the bank vault as the robbers entered the building. President Turner defiantly pulled the alarm as he faced the muzzle of a pistol.

"Did you pull that alarm?" one of the white men asked, while Riley pleaded "don't kill anybody."

When Turner admitted he had pulled the alarm, the robber barked: "I'll kill you for that!"

His pistol blazed and the banker crumpled to the floor. McCormick, who had obtained his rifle in the vault, fired, too, and the robber fell mortally wounded at Riley's feet.

By that time the vigilantes and town officers were on the job outside. The second white man took charge as angry townspeople swarmed toward the bank. He forced Riley and Horace Aldridge, a customer, to drag the wounded robber to the door, hoping to gain a motor car parked across the street.

As they reached the door, a rain of bullets came from the vigilantes and the second white man fell. Meanwhile, the negro robber rushed to the motor car and drove down the street, but every weapon in sight was turned on him and the car.

The driver, mortally wounded, slumped in his seat and the car plunged into the curb, perforated with bullets. The $700 loot was recovered in the bank where it was dropped.

NEGRO BANKER AND TWO ROBBERS KILLED IN WESTERN GUN BATTLE

One White Man Wounded Is Taken to Hospital; Identity Not Determined

BOLEY, Okla., Nov. 23 (AP)—Two white gunmen and a Negro accomplice fell Wednesday before the blazing weapons of residents of this all-Negro village who frustrated the attempted robbery of the Farmers and Merchants state bank.

Enraged by the reckless killing of D. J. Turner, the Negro bank president, who pulled a hidden alarm in the presence of the robbers, a sharpshooting bookkeeper dropped one of the holdup men. Townsmen finished the job.

Possibility the slain white robber was George Birdwell, notorious lieutenant of Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Oklahoma desperado, developed with identication of the dead Negro, Charles Glass of Earlsboro.

Glass' sister, who identified his body, said he had left Earlsboro Wednesday morning with Birdwell. The wounded white robber was identified as C. C. Patterson of Kiowa.

Regular War Staged

In the words of W. W. Riley, cashier of the bank, "there was a regular war" after the first shot was fired by the white man who killed Turner.

The bodies of the dead bandits, one white man and the Negro, and the wounded white robber, were taken to Okemah. Physicians said the wounded man had an even chance for recovery.

The Negro village of 800 population was excited over the gunfight but townsfolk were proud that they had "cleaned out" the robber gang.

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Banker Falls Dead

His pistol blazed and the banker crumpled to the floor. McCormick, who had obtained his rifle in the vault, fired, too, and the robber fell mortally wounded at Riley's feet.

By that time the vigilantes and town officers were on the iob outside. The second white man took charge as angry townspeople swamped toward the bank. He forced Riley and Horace Aldridge, a customer, to drag the wounded robber to the door, hoping to gain a motor car parked across the street.

As they reached the door, a rain of bullets came from the vigilantes and the second white man fell. Meanwhile, the Negro robber rushed to the motor car and drove down the street, but every weapon in sight was turned on him and the car.

The driver, mortally wounded, slumped in his seat and the car plunged into the curb, perforated with bullets. The $700 loot was recovered in the bank where it was dropped.

Thugs Kill Negro Bank President In Oklahoma; Gov. Murray Rewards Bookkeeper Who Killed Slayer

BOLEY, Okla—Two white gunmen and a Negro accomplice were killed Wednesday, November 23, by the blazing weapons of resident of this all- Negro village who frustrated the attempted robbery of the Farmers and Merhcants State Bank. In the hold-up the bandits coldblodedly killed D. J. Turner, Negro bank president, who pulled a hidden alarm in the presence of the robbers.

H. C. McCormich, bookkeeper; W. W. Riley, cashier; Turner and several customers were in the bank when the robbers entered after parking their automobile on the side of the street opposite the bank. McCormick slipped into the bank vault as the robbers appeared, while Turner defiantly pulled the alarm although one of the robbers had his pistol trained on him.

"Did you pull that alarm?" one of the white men asked, while the cashier pleaded with them not to kill anybody. Turner admitted he had pulled the alarm and the robber said: "I'll kill you for that." his pistol blazed and the banker slumped to the floor.

McCormick, who had obtained his rifle in the vault, fired and the robber fell, mortally wounded at Riley's feet. In the words of Riley, "There was a regular war" after the first shot was fired by the white man killing Turner.

The second white bandit took charge as townspeople rushed to the bank. He stood Horace Aldridge, a customer, and Riley, to drag the wounded robber to the door, hoping to make it to the automobile which was parked across the street. Meanwhile, the Negro accomplice scooped up all the cash he could find and both started to flee.

By this time however, a score of armed vigilantes and town officers swarmed in the street and blocked the robbers' escape.

The attack of the vigilantes was led by City Marshal J. L. McCormick, brother of the bookkeeper. He killed the Negro robber while his men wounded and captured the white man and recovered the loot.

Turner was rushed to Okemah, 14 miles away, but died enroute. The bodies of the dead bandits, one white man and the Negro accomplice, and the wounded white robber were also taken to Okemah. The wounded robber who was shot in the legs, one knee and hip, and his body tattood with buckshot died later.

On Friday, Governor Murray from Oklahoma City, announced a reward of $500 for anyone who kills a bandid in the act of robbing a bank and $250 "to anybody killing the fellows who stand outside and hold the horses."

The previous reward was $250 for a bank robber, dead or alive. This sum will be paid to McCormick, the bookkeepar, who killed George Birdwell, one of the three robbers. Governor Murray also signed a commission making McCormick a Major on his staff.

Killer of Bank Bandit Made Major by Governor

BOLEY, Okla.—In addition to receiving the $250 reward offered an Oklahoman who captures a bank robber, dead or alive, H. C. McCormick, bookkeeper of the Farmers' and Merchants' bank, who Wednesday, Nov. 23, killed George Birdwell has been made a major on the staff of Governor William H. Murray.

The bookkeeper signed a contract to that effect Friday, Nov. 25. He killed Birdwell, "power behind the throne" of the bandit band of Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, after the robber had killed D. J. Turner, president of the bank in an attempted robbery of the bank.

At the Birdwell funeral, several white Oklahomans were heard to murmur dissatisfaction because the notorious bandit had been killed by a trigger pulled by black hands instead of white. But McCormick killed the bandit and despite protestations he received the reward and the majorship.

The funeral for the slain bank president was held on Monday, Nov. 28. The citizenry of Boley, an all-Negro town, turned out in a large number to mourn at his bier.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
TIMES

NOV 28 1932

Air Tense As Boley Mourns Its Chief

Hundreds Pay Honor To Banker Slain In Bandits' Raid On Negro Institution.

By JACK STINNETT

BOLEY, Nov. 28.—While more than 3,000 tense, tight-lipped Negroes and a handful of white persons from all corners of the state, tramped through

the sandy streets here Monday afternoon, Boley buried its hero.

A pall hung over the little Negro community even before noon as all business houses closed and hundreds of persons began assembling to pay homage at the bier of D. J. Turner, mayor, leading citizen, and victim of the gunfire of George Birdwell, in the unsuccessful attempt to rob the Farmers and Merchants bank of which Turner was president.

By 1 p. m. Monday, Boley, built to house 875 persons, was a steady stream of traffic, ranging from crazily sagging wagons to large motor cars. Into the little gray home where Turner's body lay in state amid banks of floral pieces trouped hundreds of friends.

* * *

OVER it all hung an air of tenseness, of uneasiness. The rumor that Charles Floyd, Oklahoma desperado, and companion of the slain Birdwell, would come to claim revenge, charged the atmosphere.

Never was a funeral service more closely guarded. From Tulsa and Okemah more than 50 policemen and deputy sheriffs, none in uniform, assembled to assist the local deputies.

Under this guard, while dozens of spectators of the attempted robbery told in whispers their stories of the gunplay which resulted in the death of Turner and two bandits, and the wounding of a third, Boley paid final tribute to its leading citizen.

"He gave his life to guard the money of these people who had always trusted him," was the remark most often heard when Turner's name was mentioned.

* * *

FOR more than 25 years, Turner had been an outstanding figure in the community, and according to many the most prominent Negro citizen of the state. For ten years he served as Boley's mayor.

For nearly two hours, in the little church, homage was paid the man. The services were directed by Rev. Theo Rowland, Negro pastor, who potsponed his moving to Arkansas to pronounce the last rites for the most prominent member of his congregation. Although not one-fourth of the crowd was able to get inside the church, when the services were over, those outside started a march past the bier which lasted more than an hour.

Turner was buried in the little cemetery 1½ miles southwest of the city. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and three sons. A son and a daughter came from Chicago to attend the funeral.

* * *

UNDER the direction of his brother, J. L. McCormick, town marshal, H. C. McCormick, hero of the unsuccessful bank raid and the man who shot down Birdwell an instant after the latter had slain Turner, attended the funeral closely guarded. He entered the church by the rear door and left that way.

W. W. Riley, cashier of the bank, who was used by C. C. Patterson. the bandit who was wounded, as a shield during the robbery, was an honorary bearer. Patterson has been taken to the state penitentiary for safe keeping.

It was Riley whose coat was ripped by the bullet that brought Patterson down as he made for the automobile in which he and Charles "Pete" Glass, Negro member of the bandit trio who also was slain, hoped to escape. Riley was in the thick of the gunfire from the moment it started. It was to him Birdwell clung as he emptied his automatic pistol into the body of Turner.

* * *

ONE of the most graphic stories of the fatal raid on the Negro community, which prides itself on being able to care for its own, was told by "Uncle Joe" McCormick, father of the bank bookkeeper and of the town marshal.

"Uncle Joe," 81 years old and pioneer of the Boley district, was only a few hundred yards away when the first shots were fired and the knowledge that his son was in danger was flashed to him.

With a pocket knife as his only weapon, "Uncle Joe" rushed to the scene and stood in the midst of the fusillade of bullets, shouting orders which may have gone far toward preventing innocent persons being shot.

* * *

THE funeral services at the cemetery ended shortly before sunset Monday. The long procession moved away from the church and down past the corner on which the closed bank with its bullet shattered window, gave mute evidence of the robbery Wednesday.

Hundreds of automobiles moved out of the city and the little community returned more or less to normalcy; but not quite, for J. W. Kennedy, Okfuskee county sheriff, intimated that it would be long before his guard would be removed from the area.

"Birdwell is gone and good riddance," he said, "but we won't be satisfied until we get Floyd and we would like it alright if it would be right here."

LESSON FROM BOLEY

Boley, Okla., 800 population, all black, had a bank robbery the other day. President D. J. Turner died at his post of duty, turning in a burglar alarm. Two of the three robbers were killed, and one dangerously wounded. Black Boley has given a courageous example of how to combat crime.

Black Dispatch 12-17-32

In the still rising crime wave, bank robbery is far more common an incident than was the case in the days of Jesse James, the Youngers, and the Daltons. No small town bank is safe from a raid that may seriously impair the financial stability of an entire community. Preparation can forestall loss in many cases. Probably, a few banks have a plan for the day's work and a distribution of officials and employes that might by vigilance check the success of the hijacker's visit.

Oklahoma City Times

In larger communities, grocery stores, drug stores, ice houses, and filling stations are frequent victims of armed robbers. In their case, too, reasonable preparation might serve to protect their funds.

Dfficulty is involved, of course, and not all could prepare a successful plan to meet the emergency. But the individual is his own first line of defense. We have fire drills to prepare school children against a threat which it is hoped will never happen. Individual vigilance of the same character can be serviceable against crime.—The Dallas News.

BRAVO BOLEY!

Our hats off to the black citizens of the little town of Boley, who this week pointed the only successful way of exterminating bandit gangs. H. C. McCormick, Negro bank cashier, is deserving of a medal for keeping his head at a time when most men, white or black, would have "blown up," and his cool-headedness resulted in the bringing down of George Birdwell, "brains" of the "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang, and one of the most ruthless killers with which Oklahoma officers have had to cope.

Black Dispatch 12-17-32

Ordnarily, the black man gets little credit for what he does—but his misdeeds are paraded across the front page of every newspaper in the land. So, when the Negro cashier at Boley performed a meritorious service to the state in ridding Oklahoma of one of its worst outlaws, this newspaper is glad to give him credit for the act.

Oklahoma City

Boley citizens who took the oath of vigilante and promised to protect the town and its citizens, should the occasion arise, took their oath seriously. When the call came they responded with a blaze of gunfire which wiped out two of the desperadoes and sent the other riddled with shot to the hospital. The job was well done and other communities in Oklahoma might well take pattern from the Boley ambuscade. Those Okfuskee county Negroes have set an example of law enforcement, which if followed by the white communities would soon make Oklahoma the most dangerous place in the country for such outlaws as Birdwell, Floyd and their like.

Let the word go out that every town in Oklahoma is taking pattern from the Boley incident and the banks of Oklahoma and the citizens of the state need have little fear of bandit gangs.—The Nowata Star.

Killings-1932

Police Chief And Negro Are Killed In Pistol Duel

Gainesville
Montgomery, Ala

ELLENTON, S. C., Jan. 23.—(AP)—Chief of Police W. A. Hayes, 62, and Joe Brown, 26, negro, were shot to death in a duel tonight when Hayes tried to arrest Brown for shooting at another negro. 1-24-32

A negro woman who was in the house with Brown said no other person was there at the time, but persons who heard the shooting said about 15 shots were fired and officers tonight were searching for another negro they believed was with Brown.

Chief Hayes had been an officer for five years. He formerly was marshal at Barnwell, S. C. He was a native of Allendale.

NEGRO CAPTURED IN MURDER CASE

Telegraph

Booker T. Copeland Under Arrest For Killing Henry C. McMillan, Farmer

4-21-32

WALTERBORO, S. C., April 20 (AP).—A four-day hunt for Booker T. Copeland, Negro, charged with complicity in the beating to death of Henry C McMillan, white farmer, last Saturday ended Wednesday night as Copeland surrendered at a Colleton county farm house.

Just after dark Copeland emerged from a swamp and went to the farm of Bunnelle Kinard and asked for food. Kinard was away helping in the hunt for the Negro but his mother, whom Copeland knew, gave him food and then summoned officers.

Macon, Ga.

Sheriff T. J. Hadwin, of Hamberg county, took the fugitiev to Orangeburg, where Orangeburg county officers left with him for the state penitentiary at Columbia. Buster Tucker, 19-year-old Negro, is in the penitentiary, also charged with the slaying. He was captured last Sunday.

McMillan, 55, was slain near Lodge Saturday night while on his way home in a wagon. Robbery was believed to have been the motive.

Killings-1932

SHOOTS BOY AS HE BEGS FOR MERCY

FORCES SHOTGUN IN BOY'S THROAT

MONCKS CORNER, S. C. June 9——The most heartless, cold-blooded murder of a decade was unearthed here last week when witnesses testified that Denis Wright, illiterate, vicious-minded white hoodlum, angered to a killing rage when he came off second-best in an embroglio with several Negro citizens stuck both barrels of a shotgun in the mouth of 17-year-old Clarence Phoenix and shot him to death as the youth knelt on the ground with his hands upraised and pleading for mercy.

The fiend, it is claimed, fired a load of No. 8 shot and wadding down the boy's throat. Wright at the time was hunting a man who had struck him in a fight earlier in the night.

The coroner's jury recommended that Wright be held for murder and that two other whites, Morris Woodward and Wesley Bryant, Wright's companions, be released.

The wanton killing took place in the home of William Smith, on the outskirts of the village. Wright had come to the house looking for his assailant when he found Phoenix hiding under a bed. Four eye-witnesses told the coroner's jury that Wright then shot as the boy crawled on his knees, raising his hands and begging for mercy.

Wright is said to have encountered a group of citizens as they left a school commencement. He became involved with them when he is alleged to have insulted some of the girls in the crowd. The men in the party, resenting his profane language, beat him soundly.

Muttering dire threats, he went in search of aid and found Woodward and Bryant. Breaking his way into the house, he threatened the people in the home at the point of a gun. Then, his anger suddenly mounting, he discovered the youth and killed him in cold blood.

Woodward and Bryant were among the four who testified against him, as a crowd of more than 500 people crowded the courtroom.

HOLD WHITES AFTER LAD IS SLAIN

GAFFNEY, S. C., June 9.—(A. N. P.)—Although nothing is expected to be done about it, the authorities have arrested four white boys and are holding them for investigation in connection with a fatal beating administered to Richard Eaker, 25 years old.

The boys held are Harvey London, Frank Goodson, Cornell Putnam and Hunter White. London was released under a $2,000 bond some time after he was arrested.

It is claimed that Eaker, who worked for the Goodson boy's father, received a broken neck, smashed jaw and other severe injuries to his head and face at the Goodson home, where the other three held were visiting.

CURSES WHITE MAN; KILLED

GREENVILLE, S. C., Aug. 18.—(ANP.)—Although Walter Hardee had been bearing cursing from white men all his life and doing nothing about it, when he cursed a white man for the first time, he was slain here Saturday night.

Hardee and the white man, Ollie Hodges, were engaged in an argument when Hodges cursed at Hardee and Hardee cursed back. As soon as he did so, the white man shot and killed him.

Hodges was arrested, but Sheriff Whitehurst said that he would be allowed bond if he should make application for it.

NEGRO IS KILLED AFTER SHOOTING

Henry Campbell Shot to Death in Swamp for Having Wounded Athens White Man

MULLINS, S. C., Nov. 1 (AP)—Surrounded in a swamp by several hundred armed men, Henry Campbell, Negro, was shot to death near here Tuesday after he had shot and seriously wounded H. L. Tolbert, of Athens, Ga., a road construction foreman.

Campbell shot Tolbert as the latter sat in his automobile at a road project near Bufords cross-roads, Marion county. They had quarreled because the Negro had been discharged.

Campbell shoved Tolbert from under the steering wheel and with the wounded man in the car drove toward Fair Bluff, N. C., nine miles away. Fearing he was about to be overtaken, he abandoned the automobile and fled into a swamp, near the North Carolina line.

Negro Shot in Back

Hundreds of armed men gathered and searched the swamp. Several hours later Campbell was shot to death.

Hubert Richardson, a member of the posse, testified at a corner's inquest Tuesday afternoon that he killed the Negro when he refused to surrender and fled instead. Campbell was shot in the back. The jury returned a verdict that "the deceased came to his death at the hands of Hubert Richardson in a justifiable killing."

Tolbert was shot in the neck, a number of slugs entering it. Physicians at a Mullins hospital said tonight his chances were slim.

Officers said Tolbert had more than $200 with him before the shooting and that Campbell took this.

SENTENCE WHITE MAN FOR SLAYING NEGRO

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 26.—(CNS)—John C. Kennedy, white, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two years' imprisonment here Friday for fatally stabbing Henry Singleton. The jury recommended mercy. Leroy B. Kennedy, a brother, was acquitted.

Killings-1932

Ax Slayer Kills Woman, Child

5-3-32

Negro Accused Of Double Murder Shot To Death By Husband Of Victim

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 2.—(AP)—An "ax slayer" took the lives of a mother and her eight-year-old daughter while they slept in their home here at dawn today and a negro accused of the double slaying was fatally shot as he ran from the house.

Aurelia Puryear was hacked to death as she lay beside her mother, Mrs. Stanley A. Puryear. The mother was awakened by her daughter's screams, only to be struck a blow that caused her death a few hours later in a hospital.

Her husband said he was roused from his sleep to see the negro standing near the bed in which he and a son, Porter, 12, slept, with two pistols taken from a dresser drawer.

"He started blazing away with both guns," Puryear told police, "and I opened fire with a shotgun I kept by my bed. The negro dropped, but got up and ran from the house."

Will Jamison, negro, was found stumbling down the street near the Puryear home, mortally wounded.

Before his death, Jamison claimed he knew nothing of the slayings. He said Puryear persuaded him to accompany him home, offering him $3 to help him take some whisky from the house.

"He shot me down when we got to the house," the dying negro said. "I don't know anything about the things that happened inside.

"It is a horrible lie," Puryear replied when told of the negro's statement.

"Porter and I were asleep when the negro came in the house.

"I never scolded my wife in our married life of more than 13 years," he told police. "We were a happy family."

Atty. Gen. W. T. McLain said he was not prepared as yet to comment on the case.

Police were unable to say what motive the negro could have had for the slayings, but a theory of robbery is being investigated.

Puryear said he had never seen Jamison before.

TENNESSEE PLANTER WOUNDED BY NEGRO

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 29.—(AP)—C. A. Throgmorton, 33, attorney and planter, was shot and critically wounded today when he went to his farm near Germantown to order a negro tenant from the place. Sheriff W. J. Bacon said he had ordered the arrest of Charlie Ed Scott, the negro.

KILLS WIFE AND CHILD, THEN SAID "NEGRO DID IT"

White Man Calls Negro To His Home To Help Move Whiskey; Shoots Him

5-13-32

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(ANP)—After the funerals of his wife and his eight-year-old daughter, Aurelia, Stanley Puryear, white business man, was taken into custody and held in connection with the shooting to death of Will Jamison.

Early last Monday morning, Mrs. Puryear and the daughter were murdered in bed with an axe.

The husband told police that a Negro had committed the crime and that he had awakened in his room to find the colored man coming to him with two pistols. In spite of the advantage which the Negro had, Puryear claimed that he was able to seize a shotgun near his bed and shoot the intruder.

About a block from the Puryear home, the police picked up Jamison, who had been fatally wounded.

Three times before he died, Jamison declared that Puryear had shot him without cause.

"He told me that if I would come to his house and help him to move some whiskey, he would give me three dollars," Jamison informed the police on his deathbed. "When he got me to the house, he shot me. I never knew anything about what went on inside."

It was also learned that after Puryer had been arrested, a white woman was taken into custody who might throw some light on the family life of the Puryears.

MEMPHIAN IS HELD IN NEGRO'S DEATH

5-4-32

Husband and Father of Ax-Slaying Victims Denied Bail.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 3.—(AP)—Stanley A. Puryear, whose wife and daughter, Aurelia, 8, were hacked to death while they slept in their home here at dawn yesterday, late today was charged with the murder of a negro he said killed them.

The garage operator maintained under persistent questioning of Inspector Will T. Griffin that he fatally wounded the negro after the latter had killed the mother and little girl.

Puryear was arraigned before Squire Louis H. Morris after police were informed his attorney would seek a writ of habeas corpus to obtain his release from questioning officers. He denied the charges and was ordered held to the grand jury. Bail was denied.

The garage operator was taken into custody after he and his son, Porter, 12, attended the double funeral services today. Both underwent lengthy questioning, and officers said examinations would be continued. A woman, whom officers did not identify, also was sought for questioning on the theory that she might throw some light on Puryear's family life.

Puryear has insisted the attacks were made by Will Jamison, negro, whom he fatally shot when he said he saw the negro in the home with two stolen pistols in his hands.

Told he was dying, the negro insisted that he was picked up on a downtown corner by Puryear and taken to the home ostensibly to remove some whisky. He said that when he got there, Puryear shot him, and he did not know "what happened inside."

A coroner's jury this morning reported the attacks were made by "a person as yet unknown."

Although Puryear repeatedly denounced Jamison's story as a "horrible lie," Police Captain Frank Glisson testified at the inquest that the negro told his story three times "and never varied," and "had no criminal record in the past."

Glisson said Puryear accused the negro of stealing two pistols, $60 in currency and a watch, but that none of the property was found on the negro when he was arrested less than a block from the Puryear home. The officer said the watch afterwards was found in Puryear's pockets.

Glisson also said Puryear told him he went to his garage at 2 a. m. the morning of the slayings, and took one drink of liquor.

Man Held For Alleged Negro Slayer's Death

Arrest Follows Shooting Of Black Accused In Double Killing

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Later, at a habeas corpus hearing conducted before Circuit Judge A. B. Pittman at his home, police were ordered to take Puryear to the Shelby County Jail and permit his attorney to see him at any time.

The garage operator was taken into custody after he and his son, Porter, 12, attended the double funeral today. Both underwent lengthy questioning and officers said examinations would be continued. A young woman identified by officers as Miss Mary Walker, 26-year-old stenographer, was sought for questioning on the theory she might throw some light on Puryear's family life.

Griffin said the woman, a divorcee, disappeared yesterday afternoon after getting permission to leave her office for a half hour.

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Glisson also said Puryear told him he went to his garage at 2 a.m. the morning of the slayings and took one drink of liquor. Puryear was quoted as saying he returned a few minutes later and was in bed when the slayings occurred.

Late tonight Griffin charged in a formal statement that Puryear's family had attempted to block the investigation.

"Forty-five minutes after Puryear was brought in for questioning," the police inspector said, "his family began doing everything possible to block the investigation, notwithstanding the fact that his wife and daughter had been brutally murdered and authorities were seeking to get his version of the affair.

"The investigation will continue and nothing will be left undone to clear up this mystery."

Sixth Negro Fireman Is Killed by Whites in South

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (ANP) — Clarence Brooker, 42-year-old Negro fireman for the Illinois Central railroad, was shot to death as the local freight train on which he was employed passed through Shandy four miles from Bolivar, Tenn Deputy U. T. Cooper said two white men fled after the shooting. Brooker was the sixth Illinois Central Negro fireman reported killed by white men in the last several weeks. Four were in Mississippi and one in Louisiana.

SIXTH NEGRO FIREMAN IS KILLED NEAR TOONE

War Against Negro I. C. Employes Continues.

The sixth fatality was recorded yesterday in the employment fight against negro firemen of the Illinois Central Railroad as Clarence Booker, 50, fireman on a local freight running between Grand Junction and Jackson, Tenn., was killed by two unidentified white men near Toone, in Hardeman County.

Booker was peppered with buckshot as his train passed through Shandy, four miles south of Toone. The slayers drove into Shandy in a gray coupe, according to Deputy U. T. Cooper of Toone, a few minutes before the train was due at 9:30 o'clock, climbed a truck parked near the tracks and waited.

When the train passed, one of the men leveled a shotgun and fired, the shot striking Booker as he stood in the cab. He died a few minutes later. The men left hastily and last night had not been seen.

Special Agent T. M. Kimzey of Grenada, Miss., together with Sheriff Exum and Hardeman County officers investigated the shooting and questioned several persons around Toone, and at Bolivar, yesterday afternoon.

Five negro firemen have been killed in Mississippi and Louisiana in the past few weeks by white men, and four suspects are held in jail at Natchez, Miss., in connection with the shootings.

The Illinois Central and Y. & M. V. recently offered a $5,000 reward for the apprehension of the slayers.

Cracker Who Tried To Say Negro Killed Wife Denied Bail

MEMPHIS, July 28—(ANP)—Stanley Puryear, white garage operator, was denied his plea for release from jail on bond this week in Judge Pittman's court. 30-32

Puryear has been in jail since May 2 for the alleged murder of his wife, daughter and a colored man named Willie Jamison. He is to be tried September 20.

Puryear claims that Jamison killed his wife and daughter with an ax and that he shot him as he was fleeing from the house. But Jamison, on his death bed, repeated several times the story that Puryear had had him come to his house early in the morning to help move some whisky and that after he had waited in the garage in back of the house for half an hour, Puryear came to the back door, called him and shot him as he answered the call.

SUNSHINE'S TRYSTS WITH PURYEAR BARED

Appeal

Love Life of Garage Man and "Other Woman" Told In Court.

Commercial Appeal

DEFENSE IS CONTRADICTED

10-14-32

Tells of Puryear Threatening to "End It All" if Sunshine Gave Him Up For "Man Named White."

Memphis, Tenn.

The private life of Stanley A. Puryear, indicted for the murder of his wife and daughter and on trial now for the slaying of Will Jamison, negro, and Mary Sunshine Walker, church worker, in love nests at 1731 Walker and 885 North Watkins, was chronicled yesterday by a middle-aged milliner, Miss Hortense Hoffbauer.

Testifying for the state in rebuttal to the defense testimony of Puryear and Sunshine that they were merely family friends, Miss Hoffbauer, referring familiarly to Sunshine as "Shine," said:

Tells of "Shine" and Puryear.

That she knew Puryear as Stanley Martin;

That he visited Sunshine's home frequently and she saw him there nearly every night;

That she, Sunshine, Mrs. Newbill (Sunshine's sister) and Puryear went on an overnight fishing trip to Horseshoe Lake in October, 1931, and Sunshine and Puryear went out in a boat together at 5 a.m.;

That the same four went pecan hunting in Arkansas;

That Puryear ate dinner on Thanksgiving, 1931, at Sunshine's home.

That Puryear gave Sunshine red pajamas, $50 in gold, a Bulova watch, and a glove-silk night gown;

That Puryear cooked spaghetti suppers at Sunshine's home;

That Puryear and Sunshine "talked like most sweethearts would" and planned a home together;

That Puryear always kissed Sunshine good-night when he left her;

"Shine" Gave Party—Puryear Paid.

That Sunshine gave a birthday party for Puryear last February and Puryear paid the expenses;

That Sunshine had Puryear's photograph in her home;

That Sunshine and Puryear had arguments over a man named White and both cried;

That Puryear threatened "to end it all" if Sunshine gave him up for White.

All of these things were denied by Puryear or Miss Walker in their testimony.

Miss Hoffbauer was the twenty-first witness offered by the state yesterday in a full day of rebuttal testimony which is expected to continue until noon today as Attorney General McLain hammers at the contentions of defense witnesses.

A Shocking Case

Telegraph

That Negroes have been lynched on "framed up" charges in the South has been proved by the investigation of the Southern Lynching commission. A case in Memphis, now filling the newspapers of that city, shows glaringly how Negroes may be victims of the crafty white man.

Stanley A. Puryear, a pudgy used car dealer, is on trial for murder. He is accused of having hacked his wife and little 8-year-old daughter to death with an ax, as they slept, on the morning of last May 2. The prosecution seeks to fix as his motive his illicit affection for a young woman known as Mary Sunshine Walker, whom he is alleged to have given red silk pajamas and glove-silk nightgowns. He is alleged to have spent his days and evenings at Mary Sunshine Walker's house, while his wife pined and struggled with the situation, only to be hacked to death at the end. It is a horrible crime. If Puryear is guilty, we cannot imagine a punishment severe enough to fit the crime.

On the morning of the murder, a Negro was found shot and dying at the Puryear home. Puryear told the police that the Negro had hacked his wife and daughter to death, and that he (Puryear) shot him. He declared he saw the Negro standing over his wife's body, holding the bloody ax.

Before dying, however, the Negro gave a statement. He had never seen Puryear before the previous day, he said, when the white man came to him on the street and asked him if he would move some liquor from Puryear's home. Early in the morning would be the best time, Puryear told him, according to the Negro. He declared in his dying breath that, arriving at the house to move the liquor, Puryear shot him.

Skillfully, the police built up the cast against Puryear. A Negro's dying word was accepted as worth something. In a town where killing of Negroes has been excused so often, there was a tightening of the law, and on the Negro's word, the case was constructed. We wish to commend the Memphis officials for their work in this case.

Purycar is still on trial, and we cannot prejudge him. However, the horrible case is worth citing to show how easily ignorant Negroes may be victims of frame-ups in the South.—Chattanooga News.

PURYEAR FREED OF ONE KILLING

Telegraph

But State Is to Push Charges Slaying of Wife and Child a

Memphis 10-20-32

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 19 (AP)—Stanley A. Puryear was acquitted by a criminal court jury late Wednesday of a murder charge growing out of the axe murders of his wife and daughter.

Macon, Ga.

The 38-year-old used car dealer was tried on an indictment charging him with slaying Will Jamison, a Negro, to "cover up" the killings of his wife and daughter. He is still under indictment on charges of slaying Mrs. Puryear and eight-year-old Aurelia Puryear.

The verdict came more than 22 hours after the jury began its deliberations and after the jury foreman had reported the jurors as hopelessly deadlocked. Criminal Judge Phil Wallace had directed them to continue their deliberations.

Killed As They Slept

Mrs. Puryear and her daughter were hacked to death as they slept in their home the morning of May 2. Shortly after the attacks upon them, the Negro was fatally wounded.

Puryear insisted that he killed the Negro when he saw him leaving Mrs. Puryear's bedroom with a bloody ave in his hands.

The Negro's dying statement that he was lured to the home and shot by Puryear upon his arrival there and knew nothing of the axe slayings led to an investigation which resulted in Puryear's indictment.

Attorney General W. T. McClain sought to show that Puryear's infatuation for Mary Sunshine Walker, pretty stenographer, led Puryear to plot his wife's death, but the defense introduced witnesses who testified that Puryear was devoted to his family.

Puryear's denial that he bought Miss Walker a pair of red pajamas as alleged by the state and the testimony of both Miss Walker and the defendant that he had never been in bed in the stenographer's home, as another state witness testified, furnished high lights of the trial which was attended by overflow crowds throughout.

Attorney General W. T. McLain announced Wednesday night that Puryear will be brought to trial on a charge of murdering his wife and child. "I'll not consent to dropping the charges," General McLain said, "the verdict was a miscarriage of justice."

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
Monday, October 17, 1932

A Shocking Case

That Negroes have been lynched on "framed up" charges in the South has been proved by the investigation of the Southern Lynching commission. A case in Memphis, now filling the newspapers of that city, shows glaringly how Negroes may be victims of the crafty white man.

Stanley A. Puryear, a pudgy used car dealer, is on trial for murder. He is accused of having hacked his wife and little 8-year-old daughter to death with an ax, as they slept, on the morning of last May 2. The prosecution seeks to fix as his motive his illicit affection for a young woman known as Mary Sunshine Walker, whom he is alleged to have given red silk pajamas and glove-silk nightgowns. He is alleged to have spent his days and evenings at Mary Sunshine Walker's house, while his wife pined and struggled with the situation, only to be hacked to death at the end. It is a horrible crime. If Puryear is guilty, we cannot imagine a punishment severe enough to fit the crime.

On the morning of the murder, a Negro was found shot and dying at the Puryear home. Puryear told the police that the Negro had hacked his wife and daughter to death, and that he (Puryear) shot him. He declared he saw the Negro standing over his wife's body, holding the bloody ax.

Before dying, however, the Negro gave a statement. He had never seen Puryear before the previous day, he said, when the white man came to him on the street and asked him if he would move some liquor from Puryear's home. Early in the morning would be the best time, Puryear told him, according to the Negro. He declared in his dying breath that, arriving at the house to move the liquor, Puryear shot him.

Skillfully, the police built up the cast against Puryear. A Negro's dying word was accepted as worth something. In a town where killing of Negroes has been excused so often, there was a tightening of the law, and on the Negro's word, the case was constructed. We wish to commend the Memphis officials for their work in this case.

Purycar is still on trial, and we cannot prejudge him. However, the horrible case is worth citing to show how easily ignorant Negroes may be victims of frame-ups in the South,—Chattanooga News.

Killings-1932

Tennessee

JURORS STUDY CASE OF STANLEY PURYEAR

Convicted

State Demands Death Penalty After Defense Plea.

10-19-32

M'LAIN BITTER IN PLEA

Memphis

Brief Instructions Leave Five Verdicts Up to Jurors—Trial Marked Up Bitterness and Insinuations By Both Sides.

BULLETIN.

Unable to reach a decision, the jury in the Puryear case retired for the night at 12 p.m. They will resume deliberations this morning.

The case of Stanley A. Puryear, portly garage man, charged with the murder of Will Jamison, negro, early on the morning of May 2 to cover up the previous ax slaying of his wife and daughter, for which he is also under indictment, went to the jury at 5:48 p.m Tuesday. Trial of the case began Sept. 27.

Judge Wallace told the jury that he would be available to receive a verdict until 10 p.m.

Brief Jury Charge.

The jury received the case after a 20-minute charge by Judge Wallace, who outlined the following possible verdicts and punishments:

Murder in the first degree. Punishment, death by electrocution or, if the jury finds mitigating circumstances, imprisonment for from 20 years to life.

Murder in the second degree. Punishment, death by electrocu from 10 to 20 years.

Voluntary manslaughter. Punishment, imprisonment for from two to 10 years.

Involuntary manslaughter. Punishment, imprisonment for from one to five years in the penitentiary or for any period under one year in the Shelby County Workhouse.

Not guilty.

Judge Wallace's charge instructed the jury as to what weight might be given to the testimony of Puryear and to the dying declaration attributed to Jamison in their consideration of the evidence. He also instructed the jury to disregard Puryear's indictment for the killing of his wife and daughter except in considering the credibility of his statements.

The charge followed the state's closing argument begun by Attorney General McLain at 3.20 p.m. and ended at 5.16 p.m., in which General McLain demanded that the jury either free Puryear or send him to the electric chair.

Hits at Defense.

"You have been listening to a tirade from 9:30 this morning until 3:25," General McLain said. "The defense attorneys have accused the state witnesses of perjury and the attorney general's office of subornation of perjury. Their argument has been an appeal to prejudice and is not based on the facts in the case. They have resorted to unfair and foul tactics.

"I resent Dr. Cox or any other man calling me a liar and I won't permit it. I'm going to talk to you like a man.

"Any man that says my office or I or General Gerber persecutes any man or uses perjured testimony, knows the statement is false when he makes it.

"I have never in my life heard such a plea to prejudice and passion as that made in Puryear's behalf by the defense attorneys. Their hiding of Puryear behind a cloak of religion is blasphemy.

"Puryear has trampled under foot every law of man and God; Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife; thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not bear false witness; thou shalt not kill.

Puryear Is Scored.

"Puryear's hands are dripping and gory with the blood of his wife, his daughter and this negro. To cloak him in religion is an insult to this jury's intelligence.

"Puryear, the voice of your wife's blood, of your baby's blood and of this negro cry out against you as did that of Cain.

"Get down to the facts in this case, and I am not worried about this jury. Sending a man to the electric chair is the last thing I want to do. But as long as I am here I am going to do my duty.

"Mr. Galloway's statements have been unfair and unjust and made only to prejudice you men. Puryear's crime is one of the most atrocious, malicious, cunning and damnable crimes ever committed in this country.

"Puryear was getting tired of his wife. She was getting old and had borne him two children. The beast in him, his passion, came out. He wanted a younger woman without ties and he found her.

Couldn't Hold Other Woman.

"But when the depression began to get tough he couldn't keep his wife and this other woman. His other woman was thinking of going over to another man. He had to do something.

"I don't want blood. I want to see that law is enforced and that this is a good community to live in."

Puryear, sitting with his chin in his hand as General McLain spoke, frowned and seemed worried. Circles under his eyes and his drawn features portrayed the strain of the trial which had been under way since Sept. 27.

"Divine Providence kept Jamison alive long enough to point an accusing finger at Puryear. Otherwise his perfect crime might have gone undiscovered for a longer period.

"But there were flaws in his perfect crime. The negro didn't die at once and Puryear's actions in the house that morning and his clean, fresh night shirt gave him away.

"If that negro had died at once Puryear might have had his love nest after fouling his home nest."

Waving photographs of Mrs. Puryear's wounds at the jury, General McLain declared:

"The negro was killed to cover up those wounds. What reason did the negro have to kill these people? What reason in the world?

"I wished to God we never had a killing. But I have to do my duty.

State Was Fair.

"Puryear is lucky we didn't bring him in the morning of May 2. But we tried to be fair. We waited until after the funeral. What did he want us to do? Send him an invitation? He didn't give his wife and child any invitation when he sent them to their Maker without a chance to even say, 'God have mercy on my soul.'

"Puryear's whole statement is a concocted lie.

"This is the first time in my experience that I have known attorneys on the other side to get so vicious. The yare desperate. They know the evidence is against them in this horrible crime.

"Sunshine and her family had Puryear in a hole and were bleeding him and he didn't know it.

"Miss Hortense Hoffbauer told the truth, which is more than I can say for Sunshine Walker, Puryear or Mrs. Miller.

"The defense has tried to cast reflection on Miss Hoffbauer for telling what she knew. She did not do so voluntarily. She was subpoenaed up here. And she told the truth. What would you have her do. perjure herself?

"It is the duty of every good citizen to tell what he knows about law violations, and if more citizens would do this we would have more convictions and better law enforcement in Shelby County.

Why Did He Need Lawyer?

"The defense has made much of the fact that attorneys were not permitted to see Puryear while he was at the police station. If he was innocent, why did he need lawyers? A lawyer is a bad thing to have around if you're innocent.

"But no. There was a suspicion even in the minds of Puryear's relatives about this case. They had lawyers at the station almost as soon as Puryear was."

General McLain elaborated on the fact that no evidence was produced showing that Puryear on the morning of May 2 had gone near the bed where his wife and child lay.

"Why didn't he go near that bed? That old conscience was telling him he was guilty as hell, that's why. And he didn't want to get blood on that night-shirt to cast any doubt on his innocence.

"The evidence in this case can give but one verdict. The sisters of Mrs. Puryear are standing by Puryear, the defense says; they have compose da jury which has found him not guilty.

"Yes, they are. But we must go on the facts. There are only two verdicts. Either Puryear is guilty as the devil or he should be turned loose.

"Puryear killed his wife because she wouldn't give him a divorce so e could have Sunshine.

"Be men. Don't be swayed by e prejudice."

emands Death Penalty.

General McLain quoted the form of he verdict finding Puryear guilty nd setting his punishment at death.

"Bring in that verdict and your conscience will rest easy. You can look any man in the face."

General McLain's closing argument for the state followed four and one-half hours of closing argument for the defense by A. B. Galloway, chief defense counsel, who vigoorusly attacked the police and attorney general's office, charging them with false evidence and building a case on salacious and malicious insinuations.

Attacking the attorney general's conduct of the presentation, the police and deputies, Mr. Galloway said:

"The state's case consists of notoriety. The defense doesn't ask that Puryear be turned loose on vile insinuations. The test which Mrs. Vanderberg made of Puryear's car was made after she had attended church and with no members of the press present. That test was made under divine guidance.

"The only thing extraordinary about the facts in this case is the conduct of certain people of the prosecution. I want to discuss the facts in this case to keep this jury from committing judicial murder.

"Did you ever hear anything as absurd and rotten as Captain Gilson's testimony about that door? Thank God, when I look into the honest faces of this jury, I have no fea of the outcome of this case.

"God forbid that I should ever have General McLain's duty of asking for the life of a defendant on such a record as the state has made in this case.

"Putrid imps from the cess-pools of the underworld have been vomited and spewed into this courtroom to take the life of this defendant. And they have been treated in some cases with more respect than ministers of the Gospel.

"When the negro who testified that he was a porter in the dive at the southeast corner of Beale and Fourth entered the courtroom, tnedeny it, why should he take three learned, astute, portly and jovial attorney general addressed this negro known as the Cigar Kid as 'son.' 'Take that seat, son,' the general said. You gentlemen heard him.

"A little while later that same attorney general invited Dr. Ben Cox, a toiler in the vineyards of God for 40 years, out into the hall to engage in mortal combat over a misunderstood statement.

"This prosecution is based on inference, innuendo and insinuations for which there is no basis. The prosecution has been trying and crucifying Puryear on salacious testimony concerning alleged intimacies between Puryear and Sunshine Walker."

Going into the dying declaration attributed to Jamison, Mr. Galloway read a number of state supreme court decisions touching on dying declarations to show their limits and creditability as evidence.

Returning to the argument after the noon adjournment, Mr. Galloway continued:

"General Gerber violated his oath of office and the constitution of the State of Tennessee when he refused to let lawyers and friends see Puryear after his arrest.

"Those blood stains on the wall, which the evidence shows, were placed there when the negro drew back the ax between blows.

White Men Don't Use Ax.

"The murder of Mrs. Puryear and Aurelia was the act of a negro. White men do not murder with an ax.

"If Puryear was cunning and had contrived this murder as the state charges, he would have broken out a screen to make it look like robbery as his first act.

"This man has been more cruelly wronged than any men I have known in my 25 years of practicing law."

General McLain here made a note on a pad by his side.

"All the notes, General, that you may make," Mr. Galloway declared, "will not make this prosecution reasonable."

"No matter how long I live, I hope I never again see a defendant prosecuted under circumstances such as these.

Plays on Race Prejudice.

"Why, if you declare this man guilty, the word would go back to Beale Street denizens and make unsafe the bed of every white woman and child in Shelby County. These criminals would learn that all they have to do to escape the consequesnces of a crime is to say that they were enticed to the some or some other cock and bul lstory which gullible policemen would believe.

"The state has inferred tthat Puryear was the cause of Mr. and Mrs. Hardwick separating. Where is Hardwick to say this?

"The state has based its prosecution on nasty insinuations. Take from a woman her honor and there s nothing left but a frail and hollow shell.

"If admitting for th esake of argument that Puryear was intimate with Sunshine, although we earnestly

TENNESSEE DEPUTY SLAIN BY NEGRO

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Dec. 23.—(AP) Gene Fleming, 48, a deputy sheriff, was shot and killed about 7 p. m. tonight by a negro on the highway near Enterprise, 10 miles southwest of here.

Orton Bennett, companion of Fleming, said he and the deputy stopped to offer aid to three negroes who were repairing a tire and that one of the negroes opened fire with a pistol as they approached the car.

Bennett said the negro fired several shots and that Fleming died instantly. The negro and one of his companions fled after the shooting, but the third negro remained and told officers the identity of his companions.

Condemned Mississippi Negro Is Given Reprieve

JACKSON, MISS., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Andrew Prince, Hattiesburg negro scheduled to hang today for the murder of J. L. Odom, Hattiesburg filling station operator, was granted another 30-day reprieve by Gov. Sennett Conner.

Paul Wexler, white youth sentenced to hang with Prince for the Odom slaying, has been several times saved from the gallows by court technicalities and has an appeal now before the State Supreme Court. Today's action was in line with the Governor's previous announcement that he would continue to grant reprieves to Prince until the Wexler case is definitely decided.

FOUR NEGROES HELD IN DEATH OF WOMAN

DANDRIDGE, Tenn., Dec. 27.—(AP) Four negroes were held in Jefferson county jail today for questioning in the assault and slaying of Addey Rainwater, 53-year-old inmate of the county poor farm.

NEGRO IN TENNESSEE SENTENCED TO CHAIR

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 22.—(AP) Willie Jones, a negro, today was sentenced to die in the electric chair at the Nashville penitentiary February 20, when a criminal court jury found him guilty of the murder of Granville Garner, a dealer in used automobiles. Judge Tom Harsh pronounced sentence. Garner was shot to death November 6 as he slept in his home here.

MEMPHIAN MURDERED BY NEGRO ROBBERS

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 23.—(AP)—G. F. Snover, 65, hacked with an ax at his general store last night, died in a hospital early today.

His daughter, Louise, 17, had just left the store on an errand for her father, when, police say, one of three negroes who were with him, crushed in his head with the ax. About $100 was taken from a wallet in Snover's pocket.

WHITE MAN IS HELD FOR KILLING YOUTH

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 1.—(A. P.)—Despite the verdict of 'justifiable homicide" on the part of the coroner's jury, O. T. McBride, white, was held for the grand jury in connection with the killing of Red" Mills, near here Tuesday afternoon.

Mills, according to the testimony of the defendant, was employed by him as a house boy at McBride's Lodge on the Cumberland River. Monday night because of failing to discharge his duties, McBride declared that he fired Mills and the latter returned Tuesday morning and attacked him with a razor. In self-defense he pulled a revolver and killed the 18 year old youth.

Four Negroes On Trial In Death Of Officers

LEBANON, TENN., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Selection of a jury was completed here late today for the trial of four negroes on murder charges growing out of the fatal shooting of Constable Ben Northern and Special Deputy Sheriff Willard Brown near here in September.

The negroes, Jake Alexander, 51; Charles Alexander, 17; George Oldham, 17, and Jim Marthel, 19, were threatened by a mob when they were arrested soon after the officers were slain, but the crowd which filled the courtroom today was quiet.

Sheriff Ed Climer made preparations to prevent any mob action against the negroes. At the time of their arrest he rescued them from a mob which stormed the jail by hiding them under the planks of the floor until he could hurry them to safety in the Ravidson County Jail at Nashville.

Killings-1932

TEXAS PEACE OFFICER IS KILLED BY NEGRO

NACOGDOCHES, Texas, Jan. 11. (AP)—Isom Chandler, 57, Nacogdoches peace officer, was shot to death by a negro early today at Camp Worth, 25 miles east of Nacogdoches, in San Augustine county. The negro escaped and a manhunt was organized immediately by posses of officers.

White Mob Storms Jail To Get Dead Body Of Man Who Killed Sheriff

NEWTON, Tex., Feb. 17. — (CNS) — A mob of whites stormed the jail here last Tuesday demanding that the body of Caesar Powell, who had been shot to death the night before, be turned over to them so that they might burn it. The mob was inflamed to a high pitch following reports of a gun battle in the jail between Powell and the sheriff, resulting in Powell's killing of the police officer and another white man, and the subsequent killing of Powell by two other white jail attendants.

The deceased prisoner had been jailed on a charge of slaying his wife and was being questioned by the sheriff in the presence of others when he made a desperate effort to escape, which culminated in the double killing. The mob was at such a high pitch that fears of reprisals among other colored people in the community were current.

NEGROES DIE IN THE CHAIR

Two Put To Death For Murder of Farmer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas, Aug. 5.—(AP)—Two negroes, John L. Green, 20, and Ernst Johnson, 18, were electrocuted in the state prison here early today for the murder of Frank Kempf, Medina County dairyman. Kempf was beaten and robbed in June, 1931.

Jury Convicts Negro Here For Death Of White Youth June 19

(Editors Note: Mrs. Mary Burks, mother of McDonald, and his wife, Mrs. Oslea McDonald, are making an effort to take the case up to the higher court. They are alone and have no money. It is hoped that every Negro will aid them because any of us may find ourselves in McDonald's place).

—o—

Although telling a jury in criminal district court here Tuesday that, "I wouldn't have shot the white boy if I hadn't thought I was in danger," Duncan McDonald, 27, who shot and killed J. C. Walraven, 21, white youth, on June 19, was convicted by the jury which deliberated an hour, and sentenced to serve ten years in the state penitentiary.

McDonald, who pleaded self-defense, testified at the trial that he was hit on the head by Walraven before he shot him.

"We both stopped our cars at Leland and Dowling," McDonald said at the trial, "and his bumper was over my running board. He told me to drive on and I told him I couldn't until he backed up. He backed up as I started off and he said if I didn't like it to stop. The street car blocked me and I had to stop. I guess the boys thought I was stopping on account of what they had said.

"They came up to my car with tools in their hands. I got out and told them to get back. One of them hit me on the head and about knocked me out of my senses. I thought he was going to hit me again, so I raised my gun and shot three times," McDonald declared dispassionately in concluding testimony in his own behalf before the white jury which was to later decide his fate.

Two Negro witnesses who saw the shooting confirmed the testimony of McDonald.

Killings-1932

Negro Ex-Convict Sought For Slaying Wealthy Sportswoman And Maid

MIDDLEBURG, VA., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Among the rolling hills of Virginia's famous fox-hunting country, police tonight sought a negro ex-convict in connection with the killing of Mrs. Agnes Boeing Ilsley, 40, weathy sportswoman, and her maid.

Their bodies, with skulls crushed, were found early today by Paul Boeing, Mrs. Ilsley's brother, in a cottage on the 200-acre estate where she kept her string of fine hunters.

Boeing had spent the night a few yards away at the massive colonial manor house which Mrs. Ilsley had leased until Sunday to Katrina McCormick, daughter of Ruth Hanna McCormick, former Illinois congresswoman.

When Boeing entered the cottage for breakfast, he found the body of his sister, widow of Spencer Ilsley, Milwaukee banker, on the floor of her bedroom. She apparently had been beaten down in the midst of a desperate struggle.

In a nearby room, the body of the maid, Mina Buckner, 60, lay across the bed.

Joined by Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, former assistant chief of the Army air forces, and a leader in the Middleburg-Warrenton social colony, police began a search for George Crawford, the negro ex-convict, a former employe on the estate.

He was sought after it was disclosed that Mrs. Ilsley had believed he broke into her house on Christmas Eve. She then expressed fear of him and asked associates for advice.

When Boeing entered the home, he found both women clothed ready for bed. Mrs. Ilsley's rings were on her fingers and a purse nearby, containing a folder of bills, was undisturbed. The only thing missing was a small automobile, taken from the garage. Two larger cars were left behind. Entrance to the home had been obtained by breaking the glass in a door.

SEARCH FOR NEGRO SLAYER EXTENDED

Police Believe He Killed Two Women Because Arrest Had Been Sought

MIDDLEBURG, VA., Jan. 14.—(AP)—The quest for a copper-colored, bulky negro, suspected by police of murdering Mrs. Agnes Boeing Ilsley, wealthy sportswoman, and her maid, today spread from the hills of Virginia's Blue Grass to Eastern cities.

A new starting point for the hunt which began here yesterday developed with the discovery just outside Washington of an automobile stolen from Mrs. Ilsley, one of the leading members of the exclusive social colony which maintains estates about here.

While officers and friends of Mrs. Ilsley continued their quest here, police of Baltimore, Philadelphia and the national capital were asked to be on the lookout for George Crawford, a negro ex-convict of whom she had expressed fear.

The discovery of the motor car led to a search of a Washington section where Crawford was reported to have relatives. Two negroes were detained for questioning. On the basis of information one gave, police asked Philadelphia authorities to watch for Crawford.

A development during the day caused authorities to abandon one theory as to why Crawford might have beaten the attractive widow of Spencer Ilsley, Milwaukee banker, and Mrs. Mina Buckner, the servant, to death.

Dr. John A. Gibson, Loudoun County coroner, said a thorough examination revealed that neither Mrs. Ilsley, nor the maid, had been criminally assaulted. Speculation that robbery might have drawn the murderer to the house had already been dropped.

Although Mrs. Ilsley wore expensive jewelry upon her hands, it and the effects of the cottage were untouched. The automobile was apparently the only thing missing and a more expensive machine in the same garage was not tampered with.

That left the belief that Crawford might have killed the sportswoman because he had learned she had sworn out a warrant charging him with the robbery of the cottage in which she lived and of the larger mansion she owned only a few steps away.

NEGRO SLAYER STILL SOUGHT

Hunt Extends From Virginia Blue Grass to Cities

MIDDLEBURG, Va., Jan. 14 (AP)—The quest for a copper colored, bulky Negro, suspected by police of murdering Mrs. Agnes Boeing Ilsey, wealthy sports woman, and her maid today spread from the hills of Virginia's blue grass to eastern cities.

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Killings-1932

Union Professor Is Shot By Hit-And-Run Driver

Journal & Guide

RICHMOND, Va.—According to information from Charlotte, N. C. John P. Guicices, white, an employee of an insurance office there, is at liberty under a $750 habeas corpus bond following a hearing there on Monday, on charges that he shot Edward Sims, professor at Virginia Union University, here.

2-13-32

The shooting occurred on February 3, following an automobile wreck on a road in Hanover County, Va., near Ashland. Prof. Sims is reported in a critical condition in a Richmond hospital.

The victim was returning from Baltimore, where he had been to attend the funeral of Miss Celestine Smith, Union sophomore, who recently committed suicide.

Information obtainable here is that following the collision, the car in which Guicices is alleged to have been in with another man, sped away and was overtaken by Prof. Sims.

Norfolk Va

When he left his car and approached the other car, he was fired upon. Wendell Moseley, of Norfolk, a Union student accompanying Prof. Sims, took the North Carolina License number of the other car and reported to Richmond police upon arriving here. Moseley with the aid of Coach Henry B. Hucles, whom he summoned upon arriving here, got Prof. Sims to the hospital.

Upon the arrest of the suspect in North Carolina, Moseley accompanied local police officers to Charlotte in an effort to identify the he assailant or assailants. Moseley was not injured.

WHITE SHOOTS NEGRO TUTOR

Courier

Charlotte, N. C.—(CNS)—Edward Sims, professor at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, was shot near here last week, by John P. Guicices, white insurance agent, following his attempt to overtake the white man, who had damaged his automobile. Sims was not fatally injured and was released from the hospital last Tuesday. The white man was held under $750 bond, pending an investigation.

2-20-32

According to the story told the police here by Sims, he was driving his car along the road near Fredericksburg, when his car was struck by the one in which Guicices was riding. The white man kept on going and Sims tried to overtake him. When he finally caught up with the automobile, the white man shot him.

WHITE MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING COLORED WOMAN IS ACQUITTED

Journal & Guide

2-20-32

A jury in Corporation Court No. 2, deliberated less than two hours Tuesday before returning a surprise verdict acquitting a white man for the murder of a colored woman.

With the Jury's finding, Roman Yacochuk, 39, a Russian, late of Salt Lake City, Utah, left the courtroom a free man absolved of all responsibility, in connection with the death of Elizabeth White, whom he confessed having shot to death on Sunday evening, November 28, last, at 808 Cove Street.

The young woman, who was also known as "Tootsie" Gatlin, was shot and fatally wounded, according to Yacochuk's story, after she had refused to return change from a five dollar bill which he had given her in payment for a half pint of whiskey, and when she attacked him.

Yacochuk was indicted by the December term of the Corporation Court grand jury and the trial date was at first set for that month. A continuance granted at the request of the defense again placed it at January 13.

The trial Tuesday represented the third continuance. The testimony of the eight witnesses examined, was of the most conflicting sort. The defense attempted to show that the slaying was done in self defense, while the Comonwealth contended that the woman was slain without provocation, and asked for a verdict of murder in the second degree, which would have placed the accused man in the state penitentiary for a term of from one to twenty years. The defendant, himself, was the only defense witness called.

Despite the fact that he charged he was attacked by the woman and shot her only after his own life had been threatened by another man in the house, three witnesses testified that he was on his way out of the house when he fired the fatal shots, and that so far as they could see, he was not molested by the woman. The fact that the man whom he said threatened his life has never been located and so was not present to testify, for a while threatened to weaken his case.

Dr. C. J. Macdonald, city coroner, who was the first Commonwealth's witness called, testified that the cause of death was "a cerebral hemorrhage following pistol shot wounds." The bullet was taken from the front of the skull, according to the coroner's testimony. Detective Leon Nowitzky testified that he was called to 808 Cove Street shortly after 7 p.m., on the night of November 28, and when he reached the place found the slain woman lying at the foot of the stairway.

Claims He Was Attacked

Upon returning to police headquarters he questioned Yacochuck, who readily admitted the killing, according to the officer's testimony, and gave as his reason the fact that he had been attacked by the woman and threatened by a man who was present at the time. He admitted ownership of the pistol, the officer said. He went to the house and purchased a half pint of whiskey, according to the story told the officer, and gave the woman a five dollar bill from which she was supposed to take fifty cents.

The woman refused to give him his change, and when he became insistent, the man in the house threatened his life with a knife, the officer quoted the defendant as saying. Apparently becoming angered, Yacochuck then drew a pistol, which he had concealed in his sock, to back up his demands for his change and it was at this point that the other man ran from the house. When he, himself, started from the house, according to the story, the woman grabbed him and started choking and beating him about the face. To protect himself, he fired two shots. Mr. Nowitzky added that the accused man had been drinking. He also told of having found a dollar bill clutched in the dead woman's hand.

Attack Story Denied

George Cahoon, white, 301 Park Avenue, to whom Yacochuck surrendered soon after the shooting, was another important Commonwealth's witness. Another police officer, A. A. Harrison, who placed the slayer under arrest, also testified for the Commonwealth. Luvenia Stevenson, 220 Fenchurch Street, Ed. Smith and Charlie Jordan, all testified that Yacochuck was not attacked when he shot the woman.

Speaking in very broken English, Yacochuck attempted to justify the killing when he was called upon to testify. He corroborated the testimony of Detective Nowitzky for the most part. He said he purchased the pistol with which the killing was committed, in Richmond five or six years ago. He stated that he did not care who he shot when he was forced to draw the gun in defense of his life.

Describes Knife

He described a knife with which he charged he was threatened, as "a six inch one," and said that when he asked for the change from his five dollar bill was told by the man with the knife, "here's your change." He declared that he was sure he would have been killed if he had not drawn his gun and fired. How he left the scene of the shooting pursued by a crowd of people, and how he surrendered to the first white man he saw, and the details subsequently attending his arrest, were told in much detail by the accused man. He expressed considerable fear of what the crowd of people who followed him on the night of the killing might have done to him.

Yacochuck was represented by Harry Nicholson, white. The prosecution was conducted by Commonwealth's Attorney John M. Arnold.

White Man Gets Year For Killing Negro

Courier

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 21—(By ANP) — After wrangling for three and a half hours in the Norfolk county circuit court presided over by Judge W. Coleman, a jury found Bernard Sawyer, 20-year-old white man guilty of voluntary manslaughter for the killing of Cleveland Smith, and fixed his punishment at one year in the state penitentiary.

1-23-32

According to the story told by the dead man before he died at the hospital, he was shot by Sawyer as the climax of an argument over whisky. Sawyer contended that he shot Smith in self defense.

TRIAL OF THREE WHITE MEN WHO MURDERED NEGRO BEGINS

RICHMOND, Va., Mar. 24—(CNS)—The trial of three white men for slaying Elijah Wilkins, a colored man who was on guard over a cache of liquor several months ago, began here Monday. According to confessions said to have been made by the men on their arrest, several cases of rare liquors were stored on Wilkins' farm by them. The liquor disappeared and the white bootleggers killed the man because he had been careless in guarding it.

Killings-1932

Union Professor Is Shot By Hit-And-Run Driver

Journal & Guide

RICHMOND, Va.—According to information from Charlotte, N. C. John P. Guicices, white, an employee of an insurance office there, is at liberty under a $750 habeas corpus bond following a hearing there on Monday, on charges that he shot Edward Sims, professor at Virginia Union University, here.

2-13-32

The shooting occurred on February 3, following an automobile wreck on a road in Hanover County, Va., near Ashland. Prof. Sims is reported in a critical condition in a Richmond hospital.

The victim was returning from Baltimore, where he had been to attend the funeral of Miss Celestine Smith, Union sophomore, who recently committed suicide.

Information obtainable here is that following the collision, the car in which Guicices is alleged to have been in with another man, sped away and was overtaken by Prof. Sims.

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When he left his car and approached the other car, he was fired upon. Wendell Moseley, of Norfolk, a Union student accompanying Prof. Sims, took the North Carolina License number of the other car and reported to Richmond police upon arriving here. Moseley with the aid of Coach Henry B. Hucles, whom he summoned upon arriving here, got Prof. Sims to the hospital.

Upon the arrest of the suspect in North Carolina, Moseley accompanied local police officers to Charlotte in an effort to identify the the assailant or assailants. Moseley was not injured.

WHITE SHOOTS NEGRO TUTOR

Journal & Guide

Charlotte, N. C.—(CNS)—Edward Sims, professor at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, was shot near here last week, by John P. Guicices, white insurance agent, following his attempt to overtake the white man, who had damaged his automobile. Sims was not fatally injured and was released from the hospital last Tuesday. The white man was held under $750 bond, pending an investigation.

2-20-32

According to the story told the police here by Sims, he was driving his car along the road near Fredericksburg, when his car was struck by the one in which Guicices was riding. The white man kept on going and Sims tried to overtake him. When he finally caught up with the automobile, the white man shot him.

WHITE MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING COLORED WOMAN IS ACQUITTED

Norfolk Va

Journal & Guide

2-20-32

A jury in Corporation Court No. 2, deliberated less than two hours Tuesday before returning a surprise verdict acquitting a white man for the murder of a colored woman.

With the Jury's finding, Roman Yacochuk, 39, a Russian, late of Salt Lake City, Utah, left the courtroom a free man absolved of all responsibility, in connection with the death of Elizabeth White, whom he confessed having shot to death on Sunday evening, November 28, last, at 808 Cove Street.

The young woman, who was also known as "Tootsie" Gatlin, was shot and fatally wounded, according to Yacochuk's story, after she had refused to return change from a five dollar bill which he had given her in payment for a half pint of whiskey, and when she attacked him.

Yacochuk was indicted by the December term of the Corporation Court grand jury and the trial date was at first set for that month. A continuance granted at the request of the defense again placed it at January 13.

The trial Tuesday represented the third continuance. The testimony of the eight witnesses examined, was of the most conflicting sort. The defense attempted to show that the slaying was done in self defense, while the Comonwealth contended that the woman was slain without provocation, and asked for a verdict of murder in the second degree, which would have placed the accused man in the state penitentiary for a term of from one to twenty years. The defendant, himself, was the only defense witness called.

Despite the fact that he charged he was attacked by the woman and shot her only after his own life had been threatened by another man in the house, three witnesses testified that he was on his way out of the house when he fired the fatal shots, and that so far as they could see, he was not molested by the woman. The fact that the man whom he said threatened his life has never been located and so was not present to testify, for a while threatened to weaken his case.

Dr. C. J. Macdonald, city coroner, who was the first Commonwealth's witness called, testified that the cause of death was "a cerebral hemorrhage following pistol shot wounds." The bullet was taken from the front of the skull, according to the coroner's testimony. Detective Leon Nowitzky testified that he was called to 808 Cove Street shortly after 7 p.m., on the night of November 28, and when he reached the place found the slain woman lying at the foot of the stairway.

Claims He Was Attacked

Upon returning to police headquarters he questioned Yacochuck, who readily admitted the killing, according to the officer's testimony, and gave as his reason the fact that he had been attacked by the woman and threatened by a man who was present at the time. He admitted ownership of the pistol, the officer said. He went to the house and purchased a half pint of whiskey, according to the story told the officer, and gave the woman a five dollar bill from which she was supposed to take fifty cents.

The woman refused to give him his change, and when he became insistent, the man in the house threatened his life with a knife, the officer quoted the defendant as saying. Apparently becoming angered, Yacochuck then drew a pistol, which he had concealed in his sock, to back up his demands for his change and it was at this point that the other man ran from the house. When he, himself, started from the house, according to the story, the woman grabbed him and started choking and beating him about the face. To protect himself, he fired two shots. Mr. Nowitzky added that the accused man had been drinking. He also told of having found a dollar bill clutched in the dead woman's hand.

Attack Story Denied

George Cahoon, white, 301 Park Avenue, to whom Yacochuck surrendered soon after the shooting, was another important Commonwealth's witness. Another police officer, A. A. Harrison, who placed the slayer under arrest, also testified for the Commonwealth. Luvenia Stevenson, 220 Fenchurch Street, Ed. Smith and Charlie Jordan, all testified that Yacochuck was not attacked when he shot the woman.

Speaking in very broken English, Yacochuck attempted to justify the killing when he was called upon to testify. He corroborated the testimony of Detective Nowitzky for the most part. He said he purchased the pistol with which the killing was committed, in Richmond five or six years ago. He stated that he did not care who he shot when he was forced to draw the gun in defense of his life.

Describes Knife

He described a knife with which he charged he was threatened, as "a six inch one," and said that when he asked for the change from his five dollar bill was told by the man with the knife, "here's your change." He declared that he was sure he would have been killed if he had not drawn his gun and fired. How he left the scene of the shooting pursued by a crowd of people, and how he surrendered to the first white man he saw, and the details subsequently attending his arrest, were told in much detail by the accused man. He expressed considerable fear of what the crowd of people who followed him on the night of the killing might have done to him.

Yacochuck was represented by Harry Nicholson, white. The prosecution was conducted by Commonwealth's Attorney John M. Arnold.

White Man Gets Year For Killing Negro

Courier

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